“Approved” For Eternal Life

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 24th, 2019

Text: James 1:12; I Thess. 5:21

### Intro

1. Js. 1:12: Must endure, for after one has been ***approved***, the crown of life will be given!
	1. “Approved” = *dokimos [dok'-ee-mos] (G1384):* acceptable, approved, tried.
2. I Thess. 5:21: “But ***examine*** everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”
	1. “Examine” = *dokimazo [dok-im-ad'-zo ] (G1381):* *From 1384;* to test (literally or figuratively); to try, to examine, to prove, approve; having tested and tried, to show to be acceptable: - allow, discern, examine, (ap-) prove, try.
3. Other uses of the word *dokimazo:*
	1. I Jn. 4:1: “***Test*** the spirits.”
	2. I Thess. 2:4: “…We have been ***approved (KJV: “allowed”)***…we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who ***examines*** ***(KJV: “trieth”)*** our hearts.”
	3. Phil. 1:9-10: “…That you may ***approve*** the things that are excellent.”
4. We are to “examine everything carefully” so that we may hold on to “that which is good!”
	1. Not “good” according to man.
	2. “Good” according to God, which is righteousness.
	3. We can examine doctrines and know if they are from God.
	4. As we examine, so does God examine our hearts.
	5. We need to examine and approve of excellent things to be “sincere and blameless!”
5. We must “examine everything carefully” to be approved by God, and approved for eternal life!

#### Test Yourselves – To See If You Are In the Faith

* 1. II Cor. 13:5: “Examine” *(G1381 dokimazo)*
		1. Self-examination is important: we can know if we are doing “good” according to God’s standard, and if not, need to correct.
		2. As we use the Scriptures to prove (test) ourselves that we are in the faith, we will prove another point – the Lord’s commandments!
		3. I Cor. 14:37-38: In self-examining ourselves we must also see that we are abiding by the commandments of the Lord if we are to be approved!
	2. Self-approval should only come when we are approved according to God’s standards
		1. II Cor. 10:18: It is God who “commends” (approves).
		2. We can pat ourselves on the back all we want, but if we are not approved in what we do according to God, then we will truly fail the test.
	3. We must examine ourselves that we might be approved by God!

#### Prove the Sincerity of Your Love

* 1. II Cor. 8:8: “Proving” *(G1381 dokimazo)*
		1. We can say we love, but it is seen in our actions, thus can be “proved” by others.
		2. II Cor. 8:24: In giving their financial support to the saints in Jerusalem the Corinthian church would “show them the proof” of their love. *(Ch. 8-9)*
	2. Our love can and will be tested by others – Do we mean what we say?
		1. Our true (sincere) love will be shown in action
			1. I Jn. 3:17-18: Love is seen in action toward others!
			2. Jn. 14:15, 23: Love for Christ is seen in our obedience to His word!
			3. II Tim. 2:15: Love of truth (word of God) is seen in how we study it!
			4. Js. 1:12: Love for God is seen in how we endure for Him!
	3. We must prove our love so that we will be approved by God!

#### Prove What the Will of God Is

* 1. Rom. 12:2: “Prove” *(G1381 dokimazo)*
		1. To “prove what the will of God is” is to live differently than the world, a transformation by the “renewing” of one’s mind.
	2. We prove it by living it (Action!)
		1. Eph. 5:7-11: No longer of darkness, walk as lights! (Expose darkness)
		2. Eph. 6:5-8: Whether slave or free, we must do the will of God from the heart!
		3. II Cor. 6:14-18: “Come out from their midst and be separate.”
		4. I Thess. 4:1-6: We need to live according to the will of God, which is sanctification (OT: “holy”) – to be pure and unstained by the world!
	3. The way we live our lives proves the will of God to the world around us! *(“Practice what you preach”)*

#### Examine Your Own Work

* 1. Gal. 6:4: “Examine” *(G1381 dokimazo)*
		1. There is cause for rejoicing when our works have been proved! (Titus 2:14)
	2. This “examining” is done by measuring ourselves (works) by Christ’s words and examples.
		1. II Cor. 10:12: To be approved by God we must examine how we live by God’s word, not by others, else we will proved to be “unwise” (foolish).
		2. Rom. 10:1-3: The Jews did not submit to God’s standard, but made their own.
	3. Examining our works will tells us if our zeal is according to God or from ourselves!

#### Proved In Order To Be Acceptable

* 1. Rom. 14:16-18: “Approved” – same word as in James 1:12: *(G1384 dokimos, from where we get G1381 dokimazo)*
		1. The way we serve Christ we will be approved by men to be acceptable by God!
	2. Paul wrote to test (prove) the Corinthians
		1. II Cor. 2:9: Paul wanted to “test” their obedience.
		2. Some do not prove “that which is good and acceptable and perfect” but instead they do “not see fit to acknowledge God any longer.” *(Rom. 12:2; cf. 1:28)*
	3. Paul tried to have “a blameless conscience both before God and men.” (Acts 24:16)
		1. Our lives will be the proof of our faith: love and obedience to God and love for others!
	4. Our lives and faith must be proved in order to be acceptable to God!

## Conclusion

1. How will you stand the test when you are tried?
	1. Js. 1:12: Must endure, for after one has been ***approved***, the crown of life will be given!
		1. KJV: “for when he is ***tried***, he shall receive the crown of life…”
		2. ESV: “for when he has stood the ***test*** he will receive the crown of life…”
		3. “Approved” = *dokimos [dok'-ee-mos] (G1384):* *From G1380;* properly acceptable (current after assayal), that is, approved: - approved, tried.
2. We know our works; others see the way we live our lives; and God sees our hearts.
3. We are to “examine everything carefully” because one day we will be examined by God! (II Cor. 5:10)
4. *Will we be approved for eternal life by God at the final examination?*
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, repent (correct) & be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!