

“Counterfeit” Christians?

by Wayne Goff

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified”~ 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Do you know any *counterfeit* Christians? The Lord by inspiration suggested that some might be exactly that! Paul suggested that the Corinthians should “**examine**” themselves to be sure they were “**in the faith**”! Obviously, one might *think* he was a faithful Christian and only be **fooling himself**! (Self-deception is one of the worst kinds of deception!)

Well, you and I might confidently affirm: “I AM a faithful Christian! I just **know** it!” To which any listener might agree and say: “Wonderful! But how do you **know** for sure?!”

Consider how sincere people have accepted counterfeit money as the real thing! They just **knew** it was real money, now didn’t they? But they were deceived.

Likewise, Paul warned the Corinthians – and us – to do a thorough self-examination to be sure we are what we claim to be: “*in Jesus Christ*”! The only way to do that is by the objective standard of God’s Word. It is not a feeling. It is not a confident brag. It is just an honest, plain, objective fact based upon the Word of God.

Dear reader, when is the last time you did such a self-examination?!

Paul says that without such an investigation, we might well be “**disqualified**” (NKJV) or “**reprobates**” (KJV). The Greek word translated here means simply “unqualified, worthless, unacceptable.” Surely we can remember the words of Jesus on the Judgment Day to those who *thought* they were faithful: “*Not everyone who **says** to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21). The faithful disciple is the one who does the Father’s will. Otherwise we are “**disqualified,**” “**reprobate,**” “**worthless,**” or “**counterfeit.**” And while that is a frightening thought, the comfort is in knowing and doing the things taught in the New Testament.

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