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Lighthouse Bible Church

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2 Corinthians 13:7-10

Title: Only for the truth

As Paul winds down his letter (2 Corinthians 13:7), he wants his readers to appear approved, even if it's at the expense of he and other apostles.

In other words, he's willing to appear as unapproved to a minority of readers. That's the case because to him, their belief in the gospel he has preached is more important his standing in their eyes.

Remember that Paul understood the ultimate commendation comes from the Lord, not from men. That's why he focused ultimately on the furtherance of the gospel: 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Paul had a strong desire that his readers live right and Godly lives: Romans 9:1-5, 2 Corinthians 7:1-5

He and the other apostles can do nothing <u>against the truth</u>, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 13:8. Their aim was to promote the gospel at any cost, and keep in mind that the gospel (the truth) does not change.

Paul dared not do anything that would impinge upon his ability to <u>bring the truth</u> to those at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 4:11-15

Paul was especially sensitive to the idea that exercise of his rights his could impact his ministry in the eyes of his readers.

1 Corinthians 9:6-15

What does it mean to be made complete, which we see in 2 Corinthians 13:9? Paul's desire is also that his readers grow in their understanding, even if the apostles appeared as weak. Colossians 1:24-29, James 1:1-4

Earlier in this chapter, Paul wrote about having to use soome severity given the ways some acted. His plea here (2 Corinthians 13:10) is that their obedience means he doesn’t have to do so.

The Lord gave Paul and the other apostles a certain authority, but it was clear how they were to use it: 2 Corinthians 10:7-11

In conclusion:

- **Appearing unapproved**
- **Nothing against the truth**
- **Made complete (at the apostles' expense)**

We'll finish 2 Corinthians next week, Lord willing. Notice the blessed Trinity in the very last verse — we'll discuss how that same Trinity played out in their lives and in our lives next week.