

**The Minister:
His Final Warning, Prayer, Challenge and Blessing
2 Corinthians 13:01–14**

1 *The minister's warning*

- a. Warning 1: He will demand proof of the charges
- b. Warning 2: He will not spare, but will exercise his spiritual authority
 - 1) Because there are those who have sinned
 - 2) Because they seek proof of his authority
 - 3) Because he lives by the power of God
- c. Warning 3: He demands immediate self-examination
 - 1) To see if one is genuine
 - 2) To see if one has passed the test
 - 3) To prove he has not failed the test

2 *The minister's prayer for a carnal church*

- a. His prayer
 - 1) That they do no evil, but only that which is good and righteous

- 1 This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."
- 2 I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others,
- 3 Since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.
- 4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.
- 5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?
- 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.
- 7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

2) That they all stand
for the truth

3) That they be strong,
perfected

b. His reason

1) To prevent harshness

2) To edify,
not to tear down

3 *The minister's challenge*

4 *The minister's blessing*

8 For we cannot do anything against the truth,
but only for the truth.

9 We are glad whenever we are weak
but you are strong;
and our prayer is for your perfection.

10 This is why I write these things
when I am absent,
that when I come I may not have to be harsh
in my use of authority —
the authority the Lord gave me
for building you up,
not for tearing you down.

11 Finally, brothers, good-by.
Aim for perfection,
listen to my appeal,
be of one mind,
live in peace.
And the God of love and peace
will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints send their greetings.

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.