

# 2 Corinthians 13:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

## Analysis

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**But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates**—Paul expresses confidence (elpizō, ἐλπίζω, "I hope/trust") that the Corinthians will recognize his apostolic authenticity. The irony: Paul hopes they'll discover he is not adokimos (ἀδόκιμος, "disqualified/reprobate") precisely as they examine themselves. If they pass their self-examination (v. 5), they'll recognize Paul's ministry produced genuine faith, thus validating his apostleship.

This verse completes Paul's rhetorical reversal: the Corinthians' demand for proof of Paul's authority (v. 3) becomes self-examination (v. 5), which—if passed—proves Paul authentic (v. 6). Their spiritual life is the living proof of his apostolic authority, creating an unbreakable logical chain: Christ in them → Paul's ministry genuine → Paul's authority validated.

## Historical Context

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False teachers in Corinth questioned Paul's credentials (2 Cor 10-12), perhaps pointing to their own eloquence, visions, or miraculous signs. Paul consistently refuses to compete on those terms, instead pointing to the Corinthians themselves as his "letter of recommendation" (2 Cor 3:2)—their transformed lives prove his gospel authentic.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the fruit of a teacher's ministry validate (or invalidate) their authority?
2. Why does Paul tie his own vindication to the Corinthians' spiritual state rather than defending his credentials?
3. What does this teach about evaluating ministries today—what 'proof' should we seek?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐλπίζω	δὲ	ὅτι	γνώσεσθε	ὅτι	ἡμεῖς	οὐκ	ἐσμὲν	ἀδόκιμοι
I trust	But	that	ye shall know	that	we	not	are	reprobates
G1679	G1161	G3754	G1097	G3754	G2249	G3756	G2070	G96

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