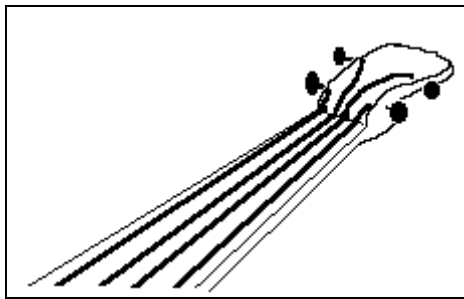


# God's Approval

*"Be diligent to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."  
2Tim. 2:15*

Faithfulness and diligence have already been presented as the prime necessities of a godly ministry. This now needs defining and qualifying. We introduce this by noting the following-

1. Romans 12:4; 1Cor. 12:18- .....
2. 1Cor. 12:12 (vs. 22)- .....



In a small European town lived an old violin teacher. One day a young boy commenced lessons. Unlike other boys, he diligently practiced everything the maestro taught him and soon became like a son to the old man. As the years went by the boy, who by this stage had grown into a man, became the best violinist in all Europe. This resulted continual requests for concerts from all over the world. The

demands of touring meant that the old teacher and his star student lost contact with each other for a long period of time. Then an opportunity came for the violinist to return to his home-town and play before his own people. On the night of the concert, the violinist arrived into town and was rushed to the concert hall to perform. As the curtain was raised, and many thousands of people sat transfixed on the great violinist, he paused before even playing a note. Scanning through the masses of the adoring audience, he eventually found the person he was looking for. Immediately he raised his violin in position, closed his eyes, and began to play. The audience was motionless as they were swept along with every bow of the violin. Instantly they rose to their feet at the end of the item and loudly applauded. But the violinist was almost disinterested as he looked to the face of the old maestro. As the maestro smiled with approval, the violinist returned an acknowledging grin knowing that he had pleased the one person that really mattered.

4. As ministers, to whom do we look to for approval? (Rom. 14:18)

---

5. What are the conditions attached to this approval? (Rom. 14:16-17)

---

Not seeking God's approval in the ministry is not only foolish and futile, it is dangerous. When we are more concerned about what others think, than we are about what God thinks, we are venturing into treacherous waters.

6. What is the warning of Proverbs 29:25?



7. What does the Bible say the ministry of the Gospel is opposed to? (And who does it please?) (Gal. 1:10; 1Thess. 2:4)
- 

While it is true that God looks to our hearts for our motives, it is also true that our actions reflect what is in our hearts (in much the same way that fruit on a tree indicates what type of tree it is, Matt. 7:15-20). Therefore Scripture rightly speaks of our deeds being judged by God (1Cor. 3:13).

### ***Approval Demands Examination...***

Many Christians fail to understand that they will be ultimately judged. Perhaps assuming that salvation means an escape from judgment, they may lazily choose to live a luke-warm spiritual life. While the Christian does escape condemning judgment, we are not exempt from examination judgment.

8. Knowing this, how does the Bible say we ought to live? (2Cor. 5:9-11)
- 

In order to be judged and then rewarded, demands that we are examined. Note the following about God's ability to examine-:

9. Mtt. 12:36-37 .....
10. Psalm 94:11 (Mtt. 9:4) .....
11. Romans 2:6 .....

Living with the knowledge that the LORD is examining us, causes us to respond by constantly examining ourselves (NB. 1Cor. 11:28). This is called *the fear of the Lord*. We must recognise as ministers of God we called to put God first and seek His approval rather than merely the approval of man.

12. How did Jesus say he wanted us to be received in heaven by God? (NB. 2Tim. 4:8; Mtt. 25:21)
- 

*Amen.*