

1 Corinthians 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Analysis

So that ye come behind in no gift (hoste hymas me hystereis thai en medeni charismati, ὥστε ὑμᾶς μὴ ὑστερεῖσθαι ἐν μηδενὶ χαρίσματι)—The term charisma (χάρισμα, "grace-gift") is derived from charis (grace), emphasizing that spiritual gifts are undeserved endowments, not earned rewards. The Corinthians lacked nothing in gifts—yet they were spiritually immature, factious, and immoral. This paradox drives the entire letter: gifted but not godly, enriched but not mature.

Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (apekdechomenous ten apokalypsin, ἀπεκδεχομένους τὴν ἀποκάλυψιν)—The verb apekdechomai (ἀπεκδέχομαι) means to eagerly await, implying patient endurance and forward-looking hope. The apokalypsis (ἀποκάλυψις, "revelation, unveiling") of Christ is His second coming. Eschatological expectation should shape present behavior—a theme Paul will apply to marriage (ch. 7), lawsuits (ch. 6), and the resurrection (ch. 15).

Historical Context

First-century Christians lived in fervent expectation of Christ's imminent return (see 1 Thess 4:13-18, written a few years earlier). This eschatological urgency informed ethics, community life, and priorities. However, the Corinthians behaved as if the kingdom had fully arrived—they were "already filled, already rich, already reigning" (4:8)—leading to complacency about sin and disunity. Paul recalibrates their eschatology: the kingdom is inaugurated but not consummated.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the abundance of spiritual gifts fail to guarantee spiritual maturity?
2. In what ways should "waiting for the coming of our Lord" shape present-day Christian ethics and priorities?
3. Do you live with eager expectation of Christ's return, or has comfortable Christianity dulled that hope?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε ὑμᾶς μὴ ὑστερεῖσθαι ἐν μηδενὶ χαρίσματι
So that **ye** **no** **come behind** **in** ^{G3367} **gift**
G5620 G5209 G3361 G5302 G1722 G5486

ἀπεκδεχομένους τὴν ἀποκάλυψιν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ
waiting for ^{G3588} **the coming** ^{G3588} **Lord** **of our** **Jesus**
G553 G602 G2962 G2257 G2424

Χριστοῦ.
Christ
G5547

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 3:20 (References Jesus): For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 3:12 (Parallel theme): Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Hebrews 9:28 (References Christ): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Luke 17:30 (Parallel theme): Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

1 Peter 4:13 (References Christ): But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Titus 2:13 (References Jesus): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Romans 8:19 (Parallel theme): For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

1 John 3:2 (Parallel theme): Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Jude 1:21 (References Jesus): Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.