

1 Corinthians 15:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Analysis

Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach (εἴτε οὖν ἐγὼ εἴτε ἐκεῖνοι, οὕτως κηρύσσομεν)—Paul unifies the apostolic witness. The verb *kēryssomen* (κηρύσσομεν, "we herald, proclaim") indicates authoritative public proclamation, not private opinion. Despite differences in background (Paul the former persecutor, Peter the denier, James the former skeptic), the apostolic message is unified: Christ crucified and risen.

And so ye believed (καὶ οὕτως ἐπίστεύσατε)—The aorist tense points to their initial conversion. The Corinthians' faith rests on apostolic testimony to historical events—the creedal formula of vv. 3-7. This is not subjective mysticism but objective historical claims subject to verification. The gospel is not "Jesus rose in my heart" but "Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, seen by 500+ witnesses."

Historical Context

The unity of apostolic testimony, despite diverse backgrounds and occasional personal conflicts (Galatians 2:11-14), demonstrates the resurrection's reality. Conspirators don't maintain consistent stories across decades under persecution. The apostles' unified message, sealed with their martyrdoms, validates their claims.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does apostolic unity on resurrection demonstrate the gospel's objectivity?
2. What is the relationship between apostolic preaching and personal faith—why does Paul emphasize both?
3. How should the church today maintain unity on essential gospel truths while allowing diversity in secondary matters?

Interlinear Text

εἴτε	οὖν	ἐγὼ	εἴτε	ἐκεῖνοι	οὕτως	κηρύσσομεν	καὶ
or	Therefore	it were I	or	they	so	we preach	and
G1535	G3767	G1473	G1535	G1565	G3779	G2784	G2532

οὕτως	ἐπιστεύσατε
so	ye believed
G3779	G4100