

1 Corinthians 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia.

Analysis

Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia—Paul's travel plans, mentioned frequently in his letters, reveal his strategic thinking and pastoral concern. He intended to visit Corinth after passing through Macedonia (northern Greece, including Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea). The verb dierchomai (διέρχομαι, "pass through") suggests a journey involving multiple stops, not a direct route.

For I do pass through Macedonia—The present tense verb emphasizes Paul's settled intention. However, 2 Corinthians 1:15-17 reveals Paul changed these plans, resulting in accusations of fickleness. His defense shows even apostolic plans remain subject to divine providence and pastoral wisdom, not carved in stone.

Historical Context

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus (16:8) around AD 53-54 during his three-year ministry there (Acts 19:10, 20:31). His planned route—Ephesus to Macedonia to Corinth—reflects the geography of his third missionary journey. He wanted to spend extended time in Corinth addressing their problems, not make a brief, painful visit.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Paul's openness about travel plans reveal about his relationship with the Corinthian church?
2. How should Christian leaders balance making plans with remaining flexible to God's providence?
3. When pastoral plans change, how can leaders maintain credibility while adapting to circumstances?

Interlinear Text

Ἐλεύσομαι δὲ πρὸς ὑμᾶς ὅταν Μακεδονίαν διέρχομαι
I will come Now unto you when Macedonia I do pass through
G2064 G1161 G4314 G5209 G3752 G3109 G1330

Μακεδονίαν γὰρ διέρχομαι
Macedonia for I do pass through
G3109 G1063 G1330

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:21 (Parallel theme): After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

1 Corinthians 4:19 (Parallel theme): But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

