

1 Corinthians 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.

Analysis

For I will not see you now by the way—Arti parerchomenos (ἄρτι παρερχόμενος, "now passing by") indicates Paul refused a brief stopover visit. He wanted substantial time to address Corinth's numerous problems (divisions, immorality, litigation, worship disorders, doctrinal confusion). A hurried visit would accomplish nothing and might even worsen relationships.

But I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit—Chronon tina (χρόνον τινα, "some time") contrasts with a passing visit. The conditional clause **if the Lord permit** (ean ho kyrios epitrepsē, ἐὰν ὁ κύριος ἐπιτρέψῃ) reflects Paul's constant acknowledgment of divine sovereignty over human plans. James 4:15 commands the same attitude: "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

Historical Context

This tentative language reflects both Paul's theological convictions about providence and his past experiences of altered plans due to persecution, illness, or divine redirection (Acts 16:6-7). Ancient Stoics valued indifference to outcomes, but Christian providence involves active planning while submitting to God's will.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul refuse a brief visit in favor of extended time, and what does this teach about superficial versus substantial ministry?
2. How do you practice the discipline of saying 'if the Lord permits' without it becoming empty religious jargon?
3. What's the difference between being flexible to God's will and being indecisive or lacking planning wisdom?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	θέλω	γὰρ	ὑμᾶς	ἄρτι	ἐν	παρόδῳ	ἰδεῖν	ἐλπίζω	δὲ
not	I will	For	you	now	by	the way	see	I trust	but
G3756	G2309	G1063	G5209	G737	G1722	G3938	G1492	G1679	G1161
χρόνον	τινὰ	ἐπιμεῖναι	πρὸς	ὑμᾶς	ἐὰν	ό	κύριος		
G5550	a while	to tarry	with	you	if	G3588	the Lord		
G5100		G1961	G4314	G5209	G1437		G2962		
ἐπιτρέπῃ									
permit									
G2010									

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:21 (Parallel theme): But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 4:19 (References Lord): 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.

James 4:15 (References Lord): For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Proverbs 19:21 (References Lord): There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Jeremiah 10:23 (References Lord): O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Romans 1:10 (Parallel theme): Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

2 Corinthians 1:15 (Parallel theme): And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit;

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