

1 Corinthians 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Analysis

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Paul addresses divisions in the Corinthian church and the nature of true wisdom. This verse contributes to Paul's overall purpose in 1 Corinthians: Address church problems and answer doctrinal questions. The key themes of church unity, wisdom vs. foolishness, spiritual gifts are evident in this passage.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 1 Corinthians was written around 55 CE from Ephesus to Divided church in Corinth with multiple issues.

Occasion: Reports of divisions, immorality, and doctrinal questions. The Greco-Roman world valued rhetoric, philosophy, and social status. Paul's message of a crucified Messiah and salvation by grace challenged these values.

First-century believers lived in a pluralistic, pagan society with many parallels to today. Social structures, economic pressures, and religious confusion all challenged Christian witness. Paul's instructions addressed both timeless theological truths and specific cultural situations.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does 1 Corinthians 3:2 deepen my understanding of the gospel and God's character?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call me to make this week?
3. How does this passage point to Christ and His redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

γάλα	ὕμᾱς	ἐπότισα	καὶ	οὐ	βρῶμα	οὕπω	γὰρ
with milk	you	I have fed	and	not	with meat	hitherto	for
G1051	G5209	G4222	G2532	G3756	G1033	G3768	G1063
δύνασθε	ἀλλ'	οὔτε	ἔτι	νῦν	δύνασθε		
able	to bear it neither	G3777	yet	now	able		
G1410	G235		G2089	G3568	G1410		

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:2 (Parallel theme): As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

John 16:12 (Parallel theme): I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.