

1 Corinthians 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

Analysis

Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace. The phrase *achri tēs arti hōras* (ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι ὥρας, "until this very hour") emphasizes the ongoing, not merely past, nature of apostolic hardship. Paul lists five deprivations: *peinōmen* (πεινώμεν, "we hunger"), *dipsōmen* (διψῶμεν, "we thirst"), *gymnēteuo men* (γυμνητεύομεν, "we are poorly clothed/naked"), *kolaphizometha* (κολαφίζόμεθα, "we are beaten/struck with fists"), *astatoumen* (ἄστατοῦμεν, "we are homeless/wandering").

These present-tense verbs create visceral contrast with Corinthian affluence (v. 8). The catalog echoes Jesus's warnings about discipleship costs (Matt 8:20; 10:9-10) and His Beatitudes blessing the hungry and persecuted (Luke 6:21, 22). Paul's willingness to endure such deprivation validates his apostleship more convincingly than eloquence or miracles. His suffering conforms to Christ's pattern—the Servant who had "nowhere to lay his head" (Matt 8:20).

Historical Context

Paul's tentmaking trade (Acts 18:3; 1 Thess 2:9) meant manual labor considered degrading by elite standards. Unlike philosophical sophists who charged fees and enjoyed patronage, Paul supported himself to avoid burdening churches and accusations of profiteering. His itinerant lifestyle, imprisonments, beatings by

authorities and mobs (2 Cor 11:23-27), and chronic material insecurity fulfilled Jesus's prediction that apostles would face persecution (John 15:20).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What material comforts or securities are you unwilling to sacrifice for gospel ministry or kingdom priorities?
2. How does Paul's voluntary embrace of deprivation challenge contemporary prosperity theology and comfort-seeking Christianity?
3. In what ways might God be calling you to experience 'hunger, thirst, and homelessness' (literal or metaphorical) to more fully identify with Christ and advance His mission?

Interlinear Text

ἄχρι	τῆς	ἄρτι	ώρας	καὶ	πεινῶμεν	καὶ	διψῶμεν
Even	G3588	unto this present	hour	and	hunger	and	thirst
G6891		G737	G5610	G2532	G3983	G2532	G1372

καὶ	γυμνητεύομεν,	καὶ	κολαφιζόμεθα	καὶ
and	are naked	and	are buffeted	and
G2532	G1130	G2532	G2852	G2532

ἀστατοῦμεν
have no certain dwellingplace
G790

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:35 (Parallel theme): Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Philippians 4:12 (Parallel theme): I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

2 Timothy 3:11 (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Matthew 8:20 (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Acts 23:2 (Parallel theme): And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

Acts 14:19 (Parallel theme): And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Acts 16:23 (Parallel theme): And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Job 22:6 (Parallel theme): For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

1 Corinthians 9:4 (Parallel theme): Have we not power to eat and to drink?

2 Corinthians 4:8 (Parallel theme): We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;