

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 ἀρτι ὥρας, "until this very hour") emphasizes the ongoing, not merely past, nature of apostolic hardship. Paul lists five deprivations: *peinōmen* (πεινῶμεν, "we hunger"), *dipsōmen* (διψῶμεν, "we thirst"), *gymnēteuo men* (γυμνητεύομεν, "we are poorly clothed/naked"), *kolaphizometha* (κολαφιζόμεθα, "we are beaten/struck with fists"), *astatoumen* (ἀστατοῦμεν, "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 |
| G891 | | 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;