

1 Corinthians 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Analysis

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? This stunning claim escalates Paul's argument. Angelous (ἁγγέλους) likely refers to fallen angels (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6)—the church will participate in their final judgment. **How much more things that pertain to this life?** (biōtika, βιωτικά, 'everyday matters') uses climactic rhetoric: if believers judge supernatural beings, surely mundane property disputes are manageable!

Paul's repeated **Know ye not** (ouk oidate, οὐκ οἶδατε) stings—what the Corinthians don't know exposes their spiritual immaturity despite claims of superior knowledge (8:1-2). They're like children given a kingdom but fighting over toys. The world-to-come already determines the present: act now according to who you will be then.

Historical Context

Jewish texts like 1 Enoch describe the righteous judging fallen watchers. Early Christians understood salvation as coronation—believers become co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17), sharing His throne (Revelation 3:21). The Corinthians knew this theology but lived as if Roman courts had more authority than the body of Christ. Paul shocks them with the implications of their own eschatology.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'everyday matters' (financial, relational, property) dominate your attention while you neglect your calling as a future judge in God's kingdom?
2. How does the reality of judging angels reframe petty conflicts with fellow believers?
3. Why do Christians often trust secular authorities more than the Spirit-filled wisdom of their own community?

Interlinear Text

οὐκ	οἶδατε	ὅτι	ἀγγέλους	κρινοῦμεν	μήτι	γε
not	Know ye	that	angels	we shall judge	G3385	G1065
G3756	G1492	G3754	G32	G2919		

βιωτικά;

things that pertain to this life

G982

Additional Cross-References

Jude 1:6 (Judgment): And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Matthew 25:41 (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

1 Corinthians 6:4 (Judgment): If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

Luke 8:14 (Parallel theme): And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Luke 21:34 (Parallel theme): And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

2 Timothy 2:4 (Parallel theme): No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.