

1 Timothy 6:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

Analysis

Which some professing have erred concerning the faith (ἦν τινες ἐπαγγελλόμενοι περὶ τὴν πίστιν ἡστοχῆσαν, hēn tines epangellomenoi peri tēn pistin ēstochēsan)—'by professing it some have missed the mark concerning the faith.' Epangellomai means to profess, claim, announce. Astocheō means to miss the mark, deviate, wander. Those claiming superior knowledge have actually wandered from faith—their 'enlightenment' is spiritual darkness.

Grace be with thee. Amen (ἡ χάρις μετὰ σοῦ. ἀμήν, hē charis meta sou. amēn)—'Grace be with you. Amen.' Charis is grace, God's unmerited favor. Paul closes with this benediction, acknowledging that only God's grace enables Timothy to fulfill his charge. 'Thee' is singular (Timothy), but some manuscripts have plural 'you'—grace for the whole church.

The letter ends where it began: warning against false teaching. Those professing superior knowledge have missed the mark entirely. But grace sustains faithful ministers. Everything Paul has charged Timothy to do—confront error, teach truth, appoint leaders, care for the vulnerable, guard the deposit—requires divine grace. We cannot fulfill God's calling in our own strength.

Historical Context

The Ephesian false teachers claimed special knowledge (gnōsis) superior to apostolic teaching. Paul's verdict: they've missed the mark. Their sophistication is

actually deviation from faith. The closing grace benediction reminds Timothy and the church: faithfulness depends on God's unmerited favor, not human effort. Grace enables what commands require.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How have those claiming superior 'knowledge' actually missed the mark of faith?
2. Why does Paul close with 'grace be with you'—what role does grace play in faithful ministry?
3. What encouragement does this benediction offer to ministers feeling inadequate for their calling?

Interlinear Text

ἥν	τινες	ἐπαγγελλόμενοι	περὶ	τὴν	πίστιν
Which	some	professing	concerning	G3588	the faith
G3739	G5100	G1861	G4012		G4102
ἡστόχησαν	Ἡ	χάρις	μετὰ	σοῦ	ἀμήν
have erred	G3588	Grace	be with	thee	Amen
G795		G5485	G3326	G4675	G281

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 2:18 (Faith): Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Colossians 4:18 (Grace): The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:19 (Faith): Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

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