

2 Corinthians 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

Analysis

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ (ὁ βεβαιῶν ἡμᾶς σὺν ὑμῖν)—*bebaiōn* (βεβαιῶν, "confirming/establishing/making firm") is present participle: God continuously secures us. *Syn hymin* (σὺν ὑμῖν, "together with you") unites apostle and congregation—both depend on divine establishment *eis Christon* (εἰς Χριστόν, into Christ/union).

And hath anointed us, is God—*chrisas* (χρίσας, "anointing") connects to *Christos* (Χριστός, "Anointed One"). Believers share Christ's anointing (1 John 2:20, 27), consecrated for priestly service. *Theos* (θεός, "God") appears emphatically: God Himself is the actor.

Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do I live with confidence that God is 'establishing' me in Christ—present, continuous, secure?
2. How does sharing Christ's 'anointing' change my identity from self-made to God-consecrated?
3. What ministry is God establishing and anointing me for 'together with' my local church?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	βεβαιῶν	ἡμᾶς	σὺν	ὑμῖν	εἰς	Χριστὸν	καὶ
G3588	Now	he which stablisheth	us	with	you	in	Christ	and
	G1161	G950	G2248	G4862	G5213	G1519	G5547	G2532
χρίσας	ἡμᾶς	θεός						
hath anointed	us	is God						
G5548	G2248	G2316						

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 2:20 (Parallel theme): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 Peter 5:10 (References Christ): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Romans 8:9 (References Christ): But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Isaiah 61:1 (References God): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isaiah 9:7 (Parallel theme): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Acts 10:38 (References God): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Parallel theme): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Isaiah 62:7 (Parallel theme): And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 49:8 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;