

2 Corinthians 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Analysis

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us (καθὼς περισσεύει τὰ παθήματα τοῦ Χριστοῦ)—Perisseuei (περισσεύει, "overflow/abound") suggests suffering beyond normal capacity. Ta pathēmata tou Christou means sufferings Christ endured AND sufferings for Christ's sake—Paul participates in Christ's ongoing afflictions.

So our consolation also aboundeth by Christ—same verb creates symmetry: overflowing sufferings = overflowing consolation. Dia (διὰ) indicates Christ as channel. The ratio: more suffering = more comfort, both mediated through union with Christ.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do I view suffering for Christ as abnormal interruption or normal participation in redemptive work?
2. How does the promise that consolation matches suffering change my response to hardship?
3. What 'sufferings of Christ' am I avoiding by playing it safe—what comfort am I forfeiting?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι καθὼς περισσεύει τὰ παθήματα τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἰς
For **as** **abound** G3754 G2531 G4052 G3588 **the sufferings** G3588 **Christ** **in** G5547 G1519

ἡμᾶς οὕτως διὰ Χριστοῦ περισσεύει καὶ ἡ παράκλησις
us **so** **by** **Christ** **abound** **also** G2248 G3779 G1223 G5547 G4052 G2532 G3588 **consolation** G3874

ἡμῶν
our G2257

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:24 (References Christ): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Philippians 3:10 (Parallel theme): That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 1:20 (References Christ): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Philippians 2:1 (References Christ): If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,