

2 Corinthians 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

Analysis

For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you (οὐ γὰρ ὡς μὴ ἐφικνούμενοι εἰς ὑμᾶς ὑπερεκτείνομεν ἐστούς)—Hyperekeinomen (ὑπερεκτείνομεν, "overextend/stretch beyond") refutes the charge of overreaching. Paul didn't invade someone else's mission field—he founded the Corinthian church, so ministering there is entirely legitimate. Ephiknoumenoi (ἐφικνούμενοι, "reaching/arriving") emphasizes actual presence and labor, not merely distant claims.

For we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ (ἄχρι γὰρ καὶ ὑμῶν ἐφθάσαμεν ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ)—Ephthasamen (ἐφθάσαμεν, "we arrived/came") is aorist, emphasizing completed action: Paul personally brought the gospel to Corinth (Acts 18:1-18). En tō euangeliō (ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ, "in the gospel") specifies the content and authority of his ministry. Paul's legitimacy rests on being Christ's appointed apostle who personally evangelized Corinth.

Historical Context

Paul spent 18 months in Corinth (Acts 18:11), establishing the church from nothing. His opponents were intruders who "entered into other men's labors" (John 4:38)—claiming authority in a church they didn't plant. Paul's pioneering work

gave him unique apostolic rights and responsibilities toward the Corinthian congregation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's insistence that he personally 'reached' Corinth with the gospel challenge leaders who claim authority without doing the hard work of evangelism and discipleship?
2. What does it mean to minister 'in the gospel of Christ' rather than in human wisdom, personal charisma, or organizational structures?
3. When have you witnessed leaders overreaching beyond their legitimate sphere of authority, and what damage resulted?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	γὰρ	ώς	μὴ	ἐφικνούμενοι	εἰς	ὑμᾶς
not	For	our measure as	not	though we reached	unto	you
G3756	G1063	G5613	G3361	G2185	G1519	G5209

ὑπερεκτείνομεν	έαυτούς	ἄχρι	γὰρ	καὶ	ὑμῶν	ἐφθάσαμεν
beyond	ourselves	as far as	For	also	to you	we are come
G5239	G1438	G891	G1063	G2532	G5216	G5348

ἐν	τῷ	εὐαγγελίῳ	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ
in	G3588	preaching the gospel	G3588	of Christ
G1722		G2098		G5547

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:16 (References Christ): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 4:15 (References Christ): For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

1 Timothy 1:11 (Parallel theme): According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

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