

2 Corinthians 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

Analysis

To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you (εἰς τὰ ὑπερέκεινα ὑμῶν εὐαγγελίσασθαι)—Hyperekeina (ὑπερέκεινα, "beyond") reflects Paul's pioneering missionary vision. He consistently sought unreached regions (Rom 15:20, 23), driven by the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). Corinth, properly matured, could launch Paul's mission to Spain (Rom 15:24, 28) and other western regions. Euangelisasthai (εὐαγγελίσασθαι, "to preach the gospel") defines apostolic purpose—proclamation to those who've never heard.

And not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand (οὐκ ἐν ἀλλοτρίῳ κανόνι εἰς τὰ ἔτοιμα καυχήσασθαι)—Allotriō kanoni (ἀλλοτρίῳ κανόνι, "another's sphere/field") reiterates the boundary principle. Hetoima (ἔτοιμα, "things prepared/ready-made") critiques those who harvest where others planted. Paul's opponents built on his foundation (1 Cor 3:10), claiming credit for his labor. Paul rejects this parasitic model—true apostolic ministry pioneers new ground, not exploits existing work.

Historical Context

The false teachers likely arrived with impressive credentials, claiming superior apostleship. They built their influence in an established church (Corinth), avoiding the hardship of pioneer evangelism. This contrasts Paul's pattern: enduring shipwreck, beatings, deprivation to reach unreached peoples (11:23-28). Their

comfort-seeking exposes false calling; genuine apostleship embraces suffering to advance the gospel.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's commitment to pioneer evangelism 'beyond' existing work challenge comfortable Christianity that harvests where others planted?
2. What unreached peoples or regions has God positioned you to reach with the gospel through your unique gifts, resources, or relationships?
3. How can you avoid the temptation to build your reputation on 'ready-made' work (established ministries, existing disciples) rather than pioneering new gospel work?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	τὰ	ὑπερέκεινα	ὑμῶν	εὐαγγελίσασθαι	οὐκ	ἐν
in	G3588	the regions beyond	you	To preach the gospel	and not	in
G1519		G5238	G5216	G2097	G3756	G1722

ἀλλοτρίω	κανόνι	εἰς	τὰ	ἔτοιμα
another man's	line	in	G3588	things made ready to our hand
G245	G2583	G1519		G2092

καυχήσασθαι

to boast

G2744