

2 Corinthians 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Analysis

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled (καὶ ἐν ἔτοίμῳ ἔχοντες ἐκδικῆσαι πᾶσαν παρακοήν, ὅταν πληρωθῇ ὑμῶν ἡ ὑπακοή)—Ekdikēsai (ἐκδικῆσαι, "to avenge/punish") denotes judicial retribution, not personal revenge. Paul stands ready to exercise apostolic discipline against false teachers, but only after the congregation demonstrates obedience. Parakoen (παρακοήν, "disobedience") is the opposite of hypakoē (v. 5)—willful rebellion against apostolic authority.

This verse reveals Paul's pastoral wisdom: he delays confronting false teachers until the congregation's loyalty is secured. Once the Corinthians submit to apostolic authority, Paul will address the infiltrators. The sequence matters—establish corporate obedience before exercising corrective discipline. Paul's authority is for edification (v. 8), not personal vindication.

Historical Context

Apostolic authority included power to discipline (1 Cor 5:3-5, Acts 5:1-11, 13:11). Paul's delay in exercising this authority wasn't weakness but strategic pastoral care—winning the congregation's allegiance before confronting opponents. This reflects Christ's patient forbearance, delaying judgment until repentance is offered (2 Peter 3:9).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's readiness to discipline—only after corporate obedience is established—model wise pastoral leadership versus authoritarian control?
2. When is patience with disobedience pastoral forbearance, and when does it become dereliction of shepherding duty?
3. What does this verse teach about the relationship between corporate obedience and leadership's responsibility to confront false teaching?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐν	έτοίμω	ἔχοντες	έκδικῆσαι	πᾶσαν	παρακοήν
And	in	a readiness	having	to revenge	all	disobedience
G2532	G1722	G2092	G2192	G1556	G3956	G3876

ὅταν	πληρωθῇ	ὑμῶν	ἡ	ὑπακοή
when	is fulfilled	your	G3588	obedience
G3752	G4137	G5216		G5218

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 2:9 (Parallel theme): For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

2 Corinthians 7:15 (Parallel theme): And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

2 Corinthians 13:2 (Parallel theme): I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

2 Corinthians 13:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org