

2 Corinthians 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Analysis

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. After the extensive physical sufferings catalog, Paul identifies the greatest burden: *chōris tōn parektos* (χωρὶς τῶν παρεκτός, 'apart from external things')—all the dangers and deprivations just listed. *Hē epistasis moi hē kath' hēmeran* (ἡ ἐπίστασις μοι ἡ καθ' ἡμέραν, 'the daily pressure upon me')—relentless burden. *Hē merimna pasōn tōn ekklesiōn* (ἡ μέριμνα πασῶν τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν, 'the care/anxiety for all the churches').

Merimna (μέριμνα, 'care/anxiety') describes pastoral concern—worry for their spiritual welfare, grief over their sin, fear of false teaching destroying them, longing for their maturity. This daily anxiety, Paul suggests, weighs heavier than beatings, shipwrecks, or starvation. Physical suffering ends; pastoral burden never ceases. **All the churches** emphasizes scope—not just Corinth but every congregation he planted or cared for.

This reveals apostolic ministry's true costliness: not primarily physical danger but emotional and spiritual burden. Paul carries the churches' struggles, sins, and sufferings on his heart constantly. This is what makes him 'spend and be spent' for them (12:15)—not just physical energy but spiritual-emotional investment unto exhaustion.

Historical Context

Paul's church-planting work across the Mediterranean created networks of congregations he remained responsible for. Letters like 2 Corinthians reveal ongoing crises requiring intervention. False teachers, moral failures, doctrinal confusion, relational conflict—all demanded Paul's attention. Communication was slow and travel difficult, increasing anxiety when problems arose.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's identification of daily pastoral anxiety as his greatest burden shape our view of what ministerial suffering primarily involves?
2. In what ways might we wrongly separate physical/external suffering from the harder emotional/spiritual burden of caring for souls?
3. What does it mean to carry 'the care of all the churches'—how do we balance healthy concern with debilitating anxiety?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|
| χωρὶς | τῶν | παρεκτὸς | | τῶν | ἐπισύστασις | |
| Beside | that which | those things that are without | | that which | cometh upon | |
| G5565 | G3588 | G3924 | | G3588 | G1999 | |
| μου | τῶν | καθ' | ἡμέραν | τῶν | μέριμνα | πασῶν |
| me | that which | G2596 | daily | that which | the care | of all |
| G3450 | G3588 | | G2250 | G3588 | G3308 | G3956 |
| τῶν | ἐκκλησιῶν | | | | | |
| that which | the churches | | | | | |
| G3588 | G1577 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 7:17 (Parallel theme): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

Romans 15:16 (Parallel theme): That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 20:2 (Parallel theme): And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

Acts 18:23 (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Colossians 2:1 (Parallel theme): For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Romans 16:4 (Parallel theme): Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Romans 11:13 (Parallel theme): For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

