

2 Corinthians 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

Analysis

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. Paul introduces his Damascus escape (v. 32-33) with solemn oath: *ho theos kai patēr tou kyriou Iēsou* (ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, 'the God and Father of the Lord Jesus')—full divine title. *Ho ὅν eulogētos eis tous aiōnas* (ὁ ὃν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, 'who is blessed forever')—doxology affirming God's eternal glory. *Oiden hoti ou pseudomai* (οἴδεν ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι, 'knows that I do not lie')—oath of truthfulness.

The solemn oath before recounting an apparently trivial escape suggests Paul's opponents questioned his stories or accused him of exaggeration. Paul stakes his integrity on God's omniscience—God knows the truth. The escape story that follows may have been mocked by critics as undignified (fleeing in a basket!) when Paul should be emphasizing it as further evidence of weakness that displays God's deliverance.

The full Trinitarian formula God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grounds Paul's oath in the highest authority. He's not merely swearing by God but specifically by the Father of Jesus, whose truth he proclaims. False apostles may lie; Paul serves the God of truth and cannot lie about his experiences without blaspheming.

Historical Context

Taking oaths by God's name was serious in Jewish culture (Exod 20:7). Paul uses this form rarely (Rom 1:9; 2 Cor 1:23; Gal 1:20; Phil 1:8; 1 Thess 2:5), suggesting either opponents' accusations of lying or the inherent implausibility of the Damascus escape requiring divine witness to authenticate it.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Paul's need to swear an oath suggest about opposition he faced—how did critics attack his credibility?
2. How does appealing to God's omniscience as witness provide ultimate accountability for truthfulness in ministry?
3. In what situations might you need to stake your integrity on God's knowledge of your heart when others question your truthfulness?

Interlinear Text

τοὺς θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοὺς κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ
which The God and Father which Lord of our Jesus
G3588 G2316 G2532 G3962 G3588 G2962 G2257 G2424

Χριστοῦ οἶδεν τοὺς ὃν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰώνας
Christ knoweth which is blessed for which evermore
G5547 G1492 G3588 G5607 G2128 G1519 G3588 G165

ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι
that I not lie
G3754 G3756 G5574

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Romans 9:5 (Blessing): Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:3 (References Jesus): We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Romans 1:25 (Blessing): Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 15:6 (References Jesus): That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

1 Peter 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,