

2 Corinthians 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.

Analysis

I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness—Paul uses krinō (κρίνω, "to judge, decide") to describe his deliberate choice to postpone his visit. The phrase en lupē (ἐν λύπῃ, "in grief/sorrow") refers to the "painful visit" mentioned in 2 Corinthians 2:1. This was likely a visit between 1 and 2 Corinthians where Paul confronted sin in the Corinthian church, causing mutual distress.

Paul's apostolic authority included the freedom to alter travel plans for pastoral reasons. His decision demonstrates that genuine spiritual leadership prioritizes the congregation's welfare over personal convenience. The repeated visits "in heaviness" would have been counterproductive—discipline had been administered, and now time for repentance was needed. This reveals Paul's pastoral wisdom: knowing when to confront and when to give space for the Spirit's work.

Historical Context

Paul had visited Corinth at least twice before writing this letter: the founding visit (Acts 18) and a painful intermediate visit not recorded in Acts. Ancient letter-writing conventions allowed for explaining travel changes, which Paul does extensively in 2 Corinthians to defend against accusations of fickleness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's willingness to change plans for pastoral reasons challenge rigid views of leadership?
2. When is it wise to step back from confrontation and allow time for repentance?
3. What does Paul's emotional investment in the Corinthians teach about authentic ministry relationships?

Interlinear Text

ἐκρινα δὲ ἐμαυτῷ τοῦτο τὸ μὴ πάλιν ἐλθεῖν ἐν
I determined But with myself this not again come in
G2919 G1161 G1683 G5124 G3588 G3361 G3825 G2064 G1722

λύπῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς
heaviness to you
G3077 G4314 G5209

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:23 (Parallel theme): Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.