

2 Corinthians 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

Analysis

I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow—The phrase touto auto (τοῦτο αὐτὸ, "this very thing") likely refers to the "severe letter" mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:8, now lost. Paul's purpose was preventative: writing allowed the Corinthians to address issues before his arrival, sparing both parties another painful confrontation.

Having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all—The term pepoithōs (πεποιθώς, "having confidence") expresses Paul's trust in their response. Despite previous disappointments, he believes in their fundamental solidarity with him. The repeated "all" (pantōn, πάντων) emphasizes congregational unity—Paul's joy and theirs are not separate but shared. This mutual joy is rooted in their common participation in Christ, not merely personal affection.

Historical Context

Letter-writing in antiquity often substituted for personal presence. Paul's "severe letter" (now lost) was carried by Titus and achieved its purpose of prompting repentance. The anxiety Paul felt awaiting Titus's return (2 Cor 7:5-7) shows the high stakes of ancient correspondence.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When is written communication more effective than face-to-face confrontation?
2. How does Paul's confidence in the Corinthians model faith in God's work in others?
3. What does shared joy in a congregation reveal about its spiritual health?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν τοῦτο αὐτὸ ἵνα μὴ ἐλθὼν λύπην
And I wrote unto you this same G2443 G3361 when I came sorrow
G2532 G1125 G5213 G5124 G846 G2064 G3077

ἔχω ἀφ' ὧν ἔδει με χαίρειν πεποιθώς
I should have from them of whom ought I to rejoice having confidence
G2192 G575 G3739 G1163 G3165 G5463 G3982

ἐπὶ πάντων ὑμᾶς ὅτι ἡ ἐμὴ χαρὰ πάντων ὑμῶν
in all you that G3588 my joy all the joy of you
G1909 G3956 G5209 G3754 G1699 G5479 G3956 G5216

ἔστιν
is
G2076

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 5:10 (Parallel theme): I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

2 Corinthians 8:22 (Parallel theme): And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

Philemon 1:21 (Parallel theme): Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org