

2 Corinthians 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

Analysis

Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: The conjunction **seeing then** (Greek *echontes oun*, ἔχοντες οὖν, "having therefore") connects to the preceding argument. Because Paul possesses **such hope** (Greek *toiautēn elpida*, τοιαύτην ἐλπίδα)—the confident expectation that the new covenant is permanent and glorious—he employs **great plainness of speech** (Greek *pollē parrēsia chrōmetha*, πολλῇ παρρησίᾳ χρώμεθα, literally "much boldness we use").

The term *parrēsia* (παρρησία) is crucial, meaning "boldness," "confidence," "frankness," or "freedom of speech." In Greek culture, *parrēsia* was the right of free citizens to speak openly in the assembly—the opposite of speaking in veils or riddles. Paul's ministry is characterized by open, unveiled proclamation of the gospel, in stark contrast to Moses veiling his face (verse 13). The new covenant minister has nothing to hide because the gospel is not a temporary, fading glory but permanent, transforming truth.

Historical Context

The concept of *parrēsia* was highly valued in Greek culture, especially in democratic Athens, where free speech was a citizen's privilege. However, in Paul's day under Roman rule, bold speech carried risks, especially for those challenging religious or political authorities. Paul's boldness was not mere bravado but Spirit-empowered confidence grounded in the gospel's truth and power. His opponents

likely accused him of being too bold or arrogant; Paul responds that his boldness flows from the hope of the new covenant, not personal presumption.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does your confidence in the permanent, glorious new covenant affect your boldness in sharing the gospel?
2. In what areas of your life are you speaking with timidity or veiled language rather than the "great plainness of speech" Paul describes?
3. What specific "hope" fuels Paul's boldness, and how can that same hope embolden you in ministry and witness?

Interlinear Text

ἔχοντες	οὖν	τοιαύτην	ἐλπίδα	πολλῇ	παρόρησιν
that we have	Seeing then	such	hope	great	plainness of speech
G2192	G3767	G5108	G1680	G4183	G3954
χρώμεθα					
we use					
G5530					

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 7:4 (Parallel theme): Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

Acts 4:13 (Parallel theme): Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

John 16:29 (Parallel theme): His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

Philippians 1:20 (Hope): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

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