

2 Corinthians 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Analysis

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus (pantote tēn nekrōsin tou Iēsou en tō sōmati peripherontes, πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι περιφέροντες)—nekrōsis (νέκρωσις, 'death, putting to death, mortification') refers to the dying process, not just death itself. Paul's sufferings aren't random—they're conformity to Christ's passion. Peripherō (περιφέρω, 'to carry around') suggests constant, mobile bearing, like carrying a burden everywhere.

That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body (hina kai hē zōē tou Iēsou en tō sōmati hēmōn phanerōthē, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῇ)—zōē (ζωή, 'life') is resurrection life, manifested (phanerōthē, φανερωθῆ, 'revealed, made visible') precisely through dying. Paul's physical sufferings display Christ's death, but his supernatural endurance displays Christ's resurrection power. Death produces life—the gospel pattern enacted in apostolic flesh.

Historical Context

This 'cruciform existence' was Paul's consistent theology (Gal 2:20, 6:14; Phil 3:10). In a culture that valued power, health, and success as divine favor, Paul's insistence that dying displays life was paradoxical. Yet this pattern—death yielding life—is the central reality of the gospel and of grain-of-wheat fruitfulness (John 12:24).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Where do you experience 'the dying of Jesus' in your daily life—what practices or sufferings conform you to His cross?
2. How have you seen Christ's resurrection life manifested through experiences of death, loss, or weakness?
3. In what ways does American Christianity avoid 'bearing about the dying of Jesus' in favor of triumphalism?

Interlinear Text

πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ
Always G3588 the dying G3588 of the Lord G2962 Jesus G2424 in G3588
G3842 G3500 G2962 G2424 G1722

σώματι περιφέροντες ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν
body bearing about that also G3588 the life G3588 Jesus in
G4983 G4064 G2443 G2532 G2222 G2424 G1722

τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῆ
body our might be made manifest
G3588 G4983 G2257 G5319

Additional Cross-References

Romans 6:5 (Parallel theme): For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

2 Timothy 2:11 (Parallel theme): It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

1 Peter 4:13 (Parallel theme): But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Romans 6:8 (Parallel theme): Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

2 Corinthians 13:4 (Parallel theme): For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Romans 8:36 (Parallel theme): As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

2 Corinthians 1:5 (Parallel theme): For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

2 Corinthians 1:9 (Parallel theme): But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

Galatians 6:17 (References Jesus): From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.