

2 Corinthians 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Analysis

For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake (aei gar hēmeis hoi zōntes eis thanaton paradidometha dia Iēsoun, ἀεὶ γὰρ ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες εἰς θάνατον παραδίδόμεθα διὰ Ἰησοῦν)—aei (ἀεί, 'always, continually') intensifies pantote ('always') from v. 10. Paradidōmi (παραδίδωμι, 'to hand over, deliver up, betray') is the verb used of Christ's betrayal and of God 'giving up' His Son (Rom 8:32). Paul frames apostolic suffering as participatory death with Christ.

That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (hina kai hē zōē tou Iēsou phanerōthē en tē thnētē sarki hēmōn, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ φανερωθῇ ἐν τῇ θνητῇ σαρκὶ ἡμῶν)—thnētē sarki (θνητῇ σαρκί, 'mortal flesh') emphasizes bodily frailty. Resurrection life shines through dying bodies, not glorified ones. The gospel's power is proven in weakness, not strength—a complete inversion of worldly expectations.

Historical Context

Paul's theology of suffering as participation in Christ's death countered both Jewish expectations of Messianic triumph and Greek concepts of divine impassibility. His opponents likely saw his sufferings as proof of divine disfavor. Paul turns this inside out: suffering proves Christ-likeness, and endurance through suffering proves resurrection power at work.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's description of being 'delivered unto death for Jesus' sake' challenge comfortable Christianity that avoids suffering?
2. In what ways have you seen Christ's life manifested specifically in 'mortal flesh'—in weakness, sickness, or limitation?
3. What's the difference between suffering for Jesus' sake versus suffering due to foolishness or sin?

Interlinear Text

ἀεὶ	γὰρ	ἡμεῖς	τῇ	ζῶντες	εἰς	θάνατον	παραδιδόμεθα
alway	G1063	For we	which	live	unto	death	are
G104		G2249	G3588	G2198	G1519	G2288	G3860
διὰ	Ἰησοῦ	ἵνα	καὶ	τῇ	ζωῇ	τῇ	Ἰησοῦ
for	Jesus	that	also	which	the life	which	Jesus
G1223	G2424	G2443	G2532	G3588	G2222	G3588	G2424
φανερωθῇ	ἐν	τῇ	θνητῇ	σαρκὶ	ἡμῶν		
might be made manifest	in	which	mortal	flesh	our		
G5319	G1722	G3588	G2349	G4561	G2257		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:49 (Parallel theme): And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Psalms 44:22 (Parallel theme): Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

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.

1 Corinthians 15:31 (References Jesus): I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

2 Corinthians 5:4 (Parallel theme): For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Romans 8:11 (References Jesus): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

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