

2 Corinthians 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.

Analysis

For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed—Hoti ei ti autō hyper hymōn kekauchaēmai, ou katēschynthēn (ὅτι εἴ τι αὐτῷ ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν κεκαύχημαι, οὐ κατησχύνθην, "if I have boasted anything to him about you, I was not put to shame"). Kataischynō (καταισχύνω, "to shame/disappoint/humiliate") uses the intensive prefix—Paul's confidence in the Corinthians wasn't naive optimism but prophetic insight. Despite their rebellion, Paul defended their potential to Titus, and they vindicated his faith.

But as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth—All' hōs panta en alētheia elalēsamen hymin, houtōs kai hē kauchēsis hēmōn hē epi Titou alētheia egenēthē (ἀλλ' ὡς πάντα ἐν ἀληθείᾳ ἐλαλήσαμεν ὑμῖν, οὕτως καὶ ἡ καύχησις ὑμῶν ἡ ἐπὶ Τίτου ἀλήθεια ἐγενήθη, "but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved true"). Alētheia (ἀλήθεια, "truth") appears twice—Paul's ministry integrates honest confrontation (speaking truth) with hopeful affirmation (boasting in their potential). Pastoral integrity requires both challenge and encouragement rooted in reality, not flattery or cynicism.

Historical Context

In Greco-Roman rhetoric, kauchēsis (boasting) was often manipulative—patrons boasted to secure clients' loyalty. Paul's boasting to Titus, however, expressed

genuine confidence, not manipulation. When leaders speak truthfully about people's weaknesses and strengths, they empower growth. The Corinthians 'proved' Paul's boasting true by their repentance—a powerful validation of pastoral hope grounded in God's transforming power.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do I balance honest confrontation of sin with hopeful affirmation of people's potential in Christ?
2. Have I ever 'boasted' about someone's spiritual progress to others, and did it prove true or was I naive?
3. What does Paul's unwillingness to be 'ashamed' of his confidence in the Corinthians teach about pastoral loyalty during congregational crises?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	εἴ	τι	αὐτῷ	νόπερ	ὑμῶν	κεκαύχημαι	οὐ
For	G1487	G5100	to him	of	you	if I have boasted	not
G3754			G846	G5228	G5216	G2744	G3756
κατησχύνθην	ἀλλ'	ώς	πάντα	ἐν	ἀλήθεια	ἐλαλήσαμεν	
I am	but	as	all things	in	a truth	we spoke	
G2617	G235	G5613	G3956	G1722	G225	G2980	
ὑμῖν	οὕτως	καὶ	ἥ	καύχησις	ἡμῶν	ἥ	ἐπὶ
to you	so	even	which	boasting	our	which	I made before
G5213	G3779	G2532	G3588	G2746	G2257	G3588	G1909
Τίτου	ἀλήθεια	ἐγενήθη					
Titus	a truth	is found					
G5103	G225	G1096					

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.

2 Corinthians 8:24 (Parallel theme): Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (Parallel theme): So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org