

2 Corinthians 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;

Analysis

And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches—Paul introduces a second delegate, unnamed but well-known: *ton adelphon* (τὸν ἀδελφόν, 'the brother') whose *epainos en tō euangeliō* (ἔπαινος ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ, 'praise in the gospel') extends *dia pasōn tōn ekklēsiōn* ('through all the churches'). The phrase *en tō euangeliō* could mean 'in gospel preaching' or 'concerning gospel matters'—this brother has earned universal commendation for gospel work.

Who was this anonymous brother? Speculation includes Luke (the 'beloved physician'), Apollos, Barnabas, or another trusted leader. Paul's anonymity might have protected the delegate from robbery (since he carried collection money) or might simply assume the Corinthians would recognize him. The emphasis on inter-church reputation matters: Paul sends delegates whose character is vouched for by multiple congregations, not just by Paul personally. This accountability system prevented fraud and demonstrated the collection's transparency. Multi-church recognition also validated ministry—genuine gospel workers earned widespread respect, unlike self-promoting false apostles.

Historical Context

Travel in the first-century Roman Empire was dangerous, especially when transporting money. Bandits targeted travelers, and suspicion of financial impropriety could destroy ministries. Paul's careful selection of multiple well-

known delegates—Titus plus this anonymous brother, plus another in v. 22—showed wisdom and integrity. The 'all the churches' phrase indicates extensive communication networks connecting early Christian congregations across the Mediterranean world.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does widespread reputation ('praise... throughout all the churches') validate Christian leaders?
2. Why does Paul emphasize multiple delegates rather than handling the collection himself?
3. What accountability systems protect Christian financial ministry in your context?

Interlinear Text

συνεπέμψαμεν	δὲ	μετ'	αὐτοῦ	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	οὗ	ὁ
we have sent	And	with	him	G3588	the brother	whose	G3588
G4842	G1161	G3326	G846		G80	G3739	
ἔπαινος	ἐν	τῷ	εὐαγγελίῳ	διὰ	πασῶν	τῶν	
praise	is in	G3588	the gospel	throughout	all	G3588	
G1868	G1722		G2098	G1223	G3956		
ἐκκλησιῶν							
the churches							
G1577							

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 12:18 (Parallel theme): I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

1 Corinthians 7:17 (Parallel theme): But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

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