

2 Corinthians 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

Analysis

And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind—This brother was not only reputable but formally appointed: cheirotonethēis hypo tōn ekklēsiōn (χειροτονηθεὶς ὑπὸ τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν, 'chosen by the churches'). The verb cheirotoneō (χειροτονέω) literally means 'to stretch out the hand,' possibly indicating voting by raised hands—early democratic church governance. He would synekdēmos hēmōn (συνέκδημος ἡμῶν, 'travel companion with us') administering tēn charin tautēn ('this grace-gift').

Paul's purpose statement is crucial: pros doxan tou kyriou (πρὸς δόξαν τοῦ κυρίου, 'toward the glory of the Lord') and prokymian hēmōn (προθυμίαν ἡμῶν, 'our readiness'). The collection glorifies Christ by demonstrating unity and love; it also reveals the churches' willingness to serve. The phrase tēn charin tautēn tēn diakonoumenēn hyph' hēmōn ('this grace being ministered by us') again uses charis for the collection—it's grace received (enabling giving) and grace given (the gift itself). Multi-church appointment, Paul's accompaniment, and focus on Christ's glory created maximum transparency and accountability.

Historical Context

The phrase 'chosen of the churches' indicates early Christian congregational authority in selecting leaders and representatives. Unlike later hierarchical episcopacy, first-century church governance often involved congregational participation in leadership selection (Acts 6:1-6, 14:23). This democratic element checked apostolic power and ensured accountability, as seen here where churches appointed the collection delegate, not Paul alone.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How should Christian financial ministries ensure transparency and multi-party accountability?
2. What does it mean practically that giving is 'to the glory of the Lord,' not just helping people?
3. How can democratic church governance coexist with pastoral authority?

Interlinear Text

οὐ μόνον δὲ ἀλλὰ καὶ χειροτονηθεὶς ὑφ' τοῦ
not that only And but also chosen by which
G3756 G3440 G1161 G235 G2532 G5500 G5259 G3588

ἐκκλησιῶν συνέκδημος ἡμῶν σὺν τοῦ χάριτι ταύτῃ
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κυρίου δόξαν καὶ προθυμίαν ὑμῶν
of the same Lord the glory also ready mind declaration of your
G2962 G1391 G2532 G4288 G5216

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:15 (Grace): For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

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