

Acts 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Analysis

The Jerusalem church's conclusion 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life' marks a theological revolution. The passive voice ('hath granted') emphasizes that repentance itself is God's gift, not human achievement. This recognition validates Gentile inclusion without Jewish conversion, establishing grace-alone salvation.

Historical Context

Peter's detailed account of Cornelius' conversion (Acts 11:4-17) convinced initially critical Jewish believers. This Jerusalem approval (AD 41) authorized Paul's later Gentile mission and prepared for the Jerusalem Council's formal decision (Acts 15).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does repentance being 'granted' teach about salvation's source and nature?

2. How should this passage inform contemporary debates about who belongs in the church?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσαντες δὲ ταῦτα ἡσύχασαν καὶ ἐδόξαζον
 they heard When these things they held their peace also glorified
 G191 G1161 G5023 G2270 G2532 G1392

τὸν θεὸς λέγοντες Ἄραγε καὶ τοῖς ἔθνεσιν ὁ θεὸς
 G3588 God saying Then also G3588 to the Gentiles G3588 God
 G2316 G3004 G686 G2532 G1484 G2316

τὴν μετάνοιαν ἔδωκεν εἰς ζωὴν
 G3588 repentance granted unto life
 G3341 G1325 G1519 G2222

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 7:10 (Repentance): For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Acts 5:31 (Repentance): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 20:21 (Repentance): Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 61:3 (Glory): To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Acts 21:20 (Glory): And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Acts 3:26 (References God): Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (Glory): But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

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