

Acts 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Analysis

But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. God's rebuke establishes divine authority over purity definitions, declaring His power to declare clean what was formerly unclean.

Historical Context

What God hath cleansed asserts divine prerogative to redefine purity. The verb tense (perfected action) indicates completed work—God has acted decisively. This principle, revealed around 40 CE, extended beyond food to people—Gentiles whom God cleanses through faith must not be called common. The theological revolution prepared Christianity for worldwide mission beyond ethnic Judaism.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God's authority to declare clean reveal about His sovereignty?
2. How does this principle apply beyond dietary laws to human relationships?

3. In what ways should believers avoid imposing purity categories God has abolished?
4. What role does divine declaration play in establishing spiritual reality?
5. How does God's cleansing power override human religious categories?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη δὲ μοι φωνὴ ἐκ δευτέρου ἐκ τοῦ

answered But me the voice again G1208 again G3588

G611

G1161

G3427

G5456

G1537

G1208

again

G3588

G1537

οὐρανοῦ Ἄ ὁ θεὸς ἐκαθάρισεν σὺ μὴ κοίνου

heaven What God hath cleansed thou not common

G3772

G3739

G2316

G2511

G4771

G3361

G2840

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:9 (Parallel theme): And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

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