

Acts 14:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

Analysis

Thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. The missionaries' return to their sending church demonstrates accountability and partnership in gospel work. The Greek paradothentes (παραδοθέντες, "recommended") means "handed over, committed," emphasizing the church's role in commissioning. They were commended **to the grace of God** (τῇ χάριτι τοῦ θεοῦ)—not to their own abilities but to divine enabling. Charis (grace) here means God's empowering favor for mission.

For the work which they fulfilled (εἰς τὸ ἔργον ὃ ἐπλήρωσαν)—the aorist verb plēroō (fulfilled, completed) indicates successful mission completion. They didn't abandon their assignment despite persecution, stoning, and opposition. This establishes the local church as the proper sending and receiving agency for missionaries, not independent operators. The phrase "from whence they had been" emphasizes returning to origins, closing the missional circle with testimony of God's faithfulness.

Historical Context

Syrian Antioch (Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3) was the first predominantly Gentile church and launching point for systematic Gentile missions. Founded by persecution-scattered disciples, it became Christianity's second great center after Jerusalem.

The journey's completion (circa AD 48) preceded the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), which would address theological tensions from Gentile conversions this trip generated.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of sending churches commissioning and receiving missionaries inform contemporary mission accountability?
2. What does being commended 'to the grace of God' teach about where true missionary power and protection originate?

Interlinear Text

κάκεῖθεν	ἀπέπλευσαν	εἰς	Ἀντιόχειαν	ὅθεν	ἥσαν
And thence	sailed	for	Antioch	from whence	they had been
G2547	G636	G1519	G490	G3606	G2258
παραδεδομένοι	τῇ	χάριτι	τοῦ	θεοῦ	εἰς
recommended	G3588	to the grace	G3588	of God	for
G3860		G5485		G2316	G1519
τὸ	ἔργον				
	the work				
	G2041				
οἱ	ἐπλήρωσαν				
which	they fulfilled				
G3739	G4137				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:40 (Grace): And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Acts 11:19 (Parallel theme): Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

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