

Acts 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Analysis

And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens—Paul's escorts from Berea delivered him to Athens, the intellectual capital of the ancient world, city of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates. The verb *kathistēmi* (καθίστημι, "to bring down, conduct") suggests careful guidance to safety after the violent opposition in Berea (v. 13).

Receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed (ἐντολὴν λαβόντες, *entolēn labontes*, "having received orders")—Paul's isolation was temporary by design. Though the apostle stood alone before the Areopagus philosophers, he urgently summoned his ministry team. Even Paul, the great apostle, recognized the necessity of Christian fellowship and collaborative ministry. The phrase "with all speed" (*hōs tachistos*, ὡς τάχιστος) reveals Paul's pastoral heart—alone in hostile territory, he longed for his brothers.

Historical Context

Athens in the 1st century AD had declined from its classical glory but remained the philosophical hub of the Roman Empire. Paul likely arrived around AD 51 during his second missionary journey. The city boasted numerous temples and philosophical schools, making it simultaneously one of the most educated and most idolatrous cities Paul encountered.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's urgent summons for Silas and Timothy challenge modern notions of "lone ranger" Christianity?
2. What can we learn from Paul entering Athens alone before his team arrives about courage in evangelistic opportunities?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	καθιστῶντες	τὸν	Παῦλον	ἤγαγον	αὐτὸν	ἕως
G3588	And	they that conducted	G3588	Paul	brought	him	unto
G1161		G2525		G3972	G71	G846	G2193
Ἀθηνῶν	καὶ	λαβόντες	ἐντολὴν	πρὸς	τὸν	Σιλᾶν	καὶ
Athens	and	receiving	a commandment	to	G3588	Silas	and
G116	G2532	G2983	G1785	G4314		G4609	G2532
Τιμόθεον	ἵνα	ὥς	τάχιστα	ἔλθωσιν	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	
Timotheus	for to	with all speed	G5033	come	to	him	
G5095	G2443	G5613		G2064	G4314	G846	
ἐξήεσαν							
they departed							
G1826							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:1 (References Paul): After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

Acts 18:5 (References Paul): And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

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