

Acts 21:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.

Analysis

Paul's willing participation in the purification ritual demonstrated his principle of becoming 'all things to all men' (1 Corinthians 9:22). His public temple presence with these men would testify that he 'walkest orderly, and keepest the law' in matters of cultural practice. This showed Paul's consistency - liberty for Gentiles didn't mean contempt for Jewish heritage.

Historical Context

The seven-day purification period followed Nazirite vow regulations. Paul's payment for the sacrifices would have been substantial, possibly using funds from the Gentile churches' collection, ironically using Gentile gifts to demonstrate Jewish piety.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Are you willing to set aside your Christian liberty to remove obstacles to others' faith?
2. How does Paul's example inform modern discussions about contextualizing the gospel in different cultures?

Interlinear Text

τούτους	παραλαβὼν	ἀγνίσθητι	σὺν	αὐτὸς	καὶ
Them	take	and purify thyself	with	that thou thyself	also
G5128	G3880	G48	G4862	G846	G2532
δαπάνησον	ἐπ'	αὐτὸς	ἵνα	ξυρήσωνται	τὴν κεφαλὴν
be at charges	with	that thou thyself	that	they may shave	their heads
G1159	G1909	G846	G2443	G3587	G2776
καὶ	γινῶσιν	πάντες	ὅτι	ὧν	κατήχηνται
also	may know	all	that those things	whereof	they were informed
G2532	G1097	G3956	G3754	G3739	G2727
περὶ	σοῦ	οὐδέν	ἐστίν	ἀλλὰ	στοιχεῖς καὶ
concerning	thee	nothing	are	but	walkest orderly also
G4012	G4675	G3762	G2076	G235	G4748 G2532
αὐτὸς	τὸν	νόμον	φυλάσσω		
that thou thyself	the law	and keepest			
G846	G3588	G3551	G5442		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:26 (Parallel theme): Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

Acts 24:18 (Parallel theme): Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

Acts 18:18 (Parallel theme): And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

Exodus 19:14 (Parallel theme): And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

1 Corinthians 9:20 (Word): And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

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