

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 παραλαβών 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 κεφαλήν
be at charges with that thou thyself that they may shave their heads
G1159 G1909 G846 G2443 G3587 G3588 G2776

καὶ γνῶσιν πάντες ὅτι ὅν κατήχηνται
also may know all that those things whereof they were informed
G2532 G1097 G3956 G3754 G3739 G2727

περὶ σοῦ οὐδέν ἐστιν ἀλλὰ στοιχεῖς καὶ
concerning thee nothing are but walkest orderly also
G4012 G4675 G3762 G2076 G235 G4748 G2532

αὐτὸς τὸν νόμον φυλάσσων
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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