

Acts 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whitewall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

Analysis

Paul's rebuke - 'God shall smite thee, thou whitewall' - echoed Jesus's condemnation of hypocritical leaders (Matthew 23:27). The charge of sitting to judge 'after the law' while commanding to strike Paul 'contrary to the law' exposed stunning hypocrisy. Paul's righteous anger at injustice, especially when cloaked in religious authority, reflected Jesus's own confrontations with corrupt leaders.

Historical Context

A 'whited wall' referred to a wall whitewashed to hide structural defects, symbolizing outward religious appearance covering inner corruption. Paul's prophecy of divine judgment on Ananias proved accurate - he died violently in AD 66.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When is righteous anger at injustice appropriate, and how do you express it without sin?
2. How do you discern between respecting authority and confronting corruption, especially in religious contexts?

Interlinear Text

τότε ὁ Παῦλος πρὸς αὐτὸν εἶπεν τύπτεσθαι σε
Then G3588 **Paul** **unto** **him** **said** **smite** **thee**
G5119 G3972 G4314 G846 G2036 G5180 G4571

μέλλει ὁ θεός τοῖχε κεκονιαμένε· καὶ σὺ κάθη
shall G3588 **God** **wall** **thou whited** **and** **thou** **sittest**
G3195 G2316 G5109 G2867 G2532 G4771 G2521

κρίνων με κατὰ τὸν νόμον καὶ παρανομῶν κελεύεις
to judge **me** **after** G3588 **the law** **and** **contrary to the law** **commandest**
G2919 G3165 G2596 G3551 G2532 G3891 G2753

με τύπτεσθαι
me **smite**
G3165 G5180

Additional Cross-References

John 7:51 (Judgment): Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?