

Acts 28:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

Analysis

We desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest shows genuine curiosity despite awareness of Christianity's controversial status. Their acknowledgment—**concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against** (πανταχοῦ ἀντιλέγεται)—recognized Christianity's universal opposition. The Greek 'hairesis' (sect) wasn't necessarily pejorative but distinguished Christianity from mainstream Judaism. Universal opposition ('everywhere') fulfilled Christ's warning that His followers would be hated (Matthew 10:22). Yet this very opposition created curiosity—people wanted to understand what provoked such hostility.

Historical Context

By AD 60-61, Christianity had spread throughout the Roman Empire, generating controversy in every region. Roman Jews, expelled previously under Claudius (possibly due to Christian-Jewish conflicts), were wary but curious about this movement.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should the gospel's controversial nature encourage rather than discourage your witness?
2. What does widespread opposition to Christianity reveal about the message's supernatural origin and power?

Interlinear Text

ἀξιοῦμεν	δὲ	παρὰ	σοῦ	ἀκοῦσαι	α	φρονεῖς	
we desire	But	of	thee	to hear	what	thou thinkest	
G515	G1161	G3844	G4675	G191	G3739	G5426	
περὶ	μὲν	γὰρ	τῆς	αἱρέσεως	ταύτης	γνωστὸν	ἐστιν
as concerning	G3303	for	G3588	sect	G3778	G1110	know
G4012		G1063		G139			G2076
ἡμῖν	ὅτι	πανταχοῦ	ἀντιλέγεται				
we	that	every where	it is spoken against				
G2254	G3754	G3837	G483				

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Acts 24:14 (Parallel theme): But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

1 Peter 3:16 (Parallel theme): Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Luke 2:34 (Parallel theme): And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

