

Colossians 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Analysis

As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ. Epaphras appears as syndoulos (σύνδουλος, "fellow-slave"), emphasizing shared servanthood with Paul under one Master. The adjective agapētos (ἀγαπητός, "beloved") shows Paul's personal affection, while pistos diakonos (πιστὸς διάκονος, "faithful servant") commends his ministry.

Epaphras likely evangelized Colossae during Paul's Ephesian ministry when "all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word" (Acts 19:10). Paul validates Epaphras's teaching as authentic gospel, establishing continuity between apostolic authority and local ministry. The phrase "for you" (hyper hymōn, ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν) indicates Epaphras served their interests, not building personal empire—a model for biblical ministry.

Historical Context

Epaphras traveled from Colossae to Rome to consult Paul about the emerging heresy, showing pastoral wisdom in seeking apostolic guidance. His report prompted this epistle. Later tradition identifies him as Colossae's first bishop, though Scripture doesn't explicitly state this. His willingness to travel hundreds of miles for theological clarity demonstrates how seriously early Christians took doctrinal purity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Who has faithfully brought you the gospel, and how do you honor their ministry in your continued faithfulness?
2. What makes a minister "faithful"—theological precision, personal character, sacrificial service, or all three?
3. When facing doctrinal confusion, do you seek wise counsel from mature believers, or rely on personal opinion?

Interlinear Text

καθὼς καί ἐμάθετε ἀπὸ Ἐπαφρᾶ τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ

As also learned of Epaphras G3588 dear G27
G2531 G2532 G3129 G575 G1889

συνδούλου ἡμῶν ὅς ἐστιν πιστὸς ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν διάκονος

fellowservant our who is a faithful for you minister
G4889 G2257 G3739 G2076 G4103 G5228 G5216 G1249

τοῦ Χριστοῦ

of Christ
G3588 G5547

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 4:12 (References Christ): Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Philemon 1:23 (References Christ): There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

Hebrews 2:17 (Faith): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Colossians 4:7 (Faith): All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Hebrews 3:2 (Faith): Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Ephesians 5:21 (Parallel theme): Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (Faith): Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (Faith): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Corinthians 7:25 (Faith): Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

Matthew 25:21 (Faith): His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.