

Colossians 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Analysis

In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. Paul reminds believers of their past: "ye also walked" (periepatēsate kai hymeis, περιεπατήσατε καὶ ὑμεῖς). Aorist tense indicates completed past action—they formerly lived this way but no longer. "Walked" means habitual conduct; "lived in them" (ezēte en autois, ἐζῆτε ἐν αὐτοῖς) indicates the sins formed their environment and identity. They were immersed in this moral filth.

This reminder serves dual purpose: first, humbling believers by recalling their former deadness, preventing spiritual pride; second, emphasizing transformation's reality—they were changed, no longer defined by these sins. Past lifestyle doesn't excuse continued sin but proves gospel power: what they were is not what they are. Grace transforms; converted sinners become saints.

Historical Context

Colossae's pagan culture featured rampant sexual immorality, materialism, and idolatry. Paul doesn't excuse former behavior as cultural relativism but acknowledges it as past reality now decisively changed through Christ. This establishes pattern for Christian ethics: grace doesn't accommodate cultural sin but transforms lives to reflect God's holiness. Early Christianity's moral transformation attracted attention and sometimes persecution from those threatened by its ethical demands.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How vividly do you remember your pre-conversion lifestyle, and does this memory fuel humility and gratitude?
2. What evidence of genuine transformation exists since conversion—not perfection but definite change?
3. Where might you excuse current sin by appealing to cultural norms rather than biblical standards?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	οἵς	καὶ	ὑμεῖς	περιεπατήσατέ	ποτε	ὅτε	ἐζήτε
In	the which	also	ye	walked	some time	when	ye lived
G1722	G3739	G2532	G5210	G4043	G4218	G3753	G2198

ἐν αὐτοῖς

In	them
G1722	G846

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:2 (Parallel theme): Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

1 Corinthians 6:11 (Parallel theme): And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:3 (Parallel theme): For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Colossians 2:13 (Parallel theme): And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Romans 7:5 (Parallel theme): For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.