

Colossians 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Analysis

Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) Paul sends greetings from companions. Aristarchus, "my fellowprisoner" (ho synaichmalōtos mou, ὁ συναιχμάλωτός μου), shares Paul's imprisonment—whether literally imprisoned or metaphorically as prisoner of Christ's service (Romans 16:7). Aristarchus exemplifies sacrificial friendship, accompanying Paul through travels and trials (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2).

Marcus (John Mark) receives special mention with relational identification: "sister's son to Barnabas" (Barnabas was Paul's former ministry partner). Mark had deserted Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 15:37-39), causing sharp contention between Paul and Barnabas. This greeting indicates reconciliation—Paul now commends Mark, showing restored relationship. The parenthetical instruction to receive Mark warmly suggests his coming visit required advance encouragement given past failures.

Historical Context

John Mark authored the second gospel. His restoration after early failure demonstrates grace's transforming power and mature leaders' willingness to forgive and restore failing workers. Paul and Barnabas's sharp separation over Mark (Acts 15:39) eventually healed, with Paul later calling Mark "profitable to me

for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). This models biblical conflict resolution and restoration of failed workers.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Who has failed in ministry or relationships that you need to forgive and restore like Paul restored Mark?
2. How do you respond to others' past failures—permanent disqualification or gracious restoration opportunity?
3. What role does reconciliation play in your Christian relationships and church community?

Interlinear Text

Ἄσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Ἀρίσταρχος ὁ συναιχμάλωτός μου καὶ
saluteth you Aristarchus G3588 fellowprisoner my and
G782 G5209 G708 G4869 G3450 G2532

Μᾶρκος ὁ ἀνεψιὸς Βαρναβᾶ περὶ οὗ ἐλάβετε
Marcus G3588 sister's son to Barnabas (touching whom ye received
G3138 G431 G921 G4012 G3739 G2983

ἐντολάς ἐὰν ἔλθῃ πρὸς ὑμᾶς δέξασθε αὐτόν
commandments if he come unto you receive him
G1785 G1437 G2064 G4314 G5209 G1209 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:29 (Parallel theme): And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

2 Timothy 4:11 (Parallel theme): Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Acts 20:4 (Parallel theme): And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Acts 12:12 (Parallel theme): And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 27:2 (Parallel theme): And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

Philemon 1:24 (Parallel theme): Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.