

Colossians 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

Analysis

And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. Paul mentions Jesus Justus, otherwise unknown. "Which is called Justus" distinguishes him from Jesus Christ; Justus (Latin "righteous") was likely Roman name supplementing Hebrew name. "Who are of the circumcision" identifies these three (Aristarchus, Mark, Justus) as Jewish believers—"these only" indicates they alone among Jewish Christians actively supported Paul's imprisoned ministry.

"My fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God" (*synergoi eis tēn basileian tou theou, συνεργοὶ εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ*) describes shared labor for God's kingdom. "Which have been a comfort unto me" (*hoitines egenēthēsan moi parēgoria, οἵτινες ἐγενήθησαν μοι παρηγορία*) reveals these men's encouragement during Paul's imprisonment. Many Jewish Christians apparently abandoned or opposed Paul; these three remained faithful, providing crucial emotional and ministerial support.

Historical Context

Paul's ministry to Gentiles created tension with Jewish Christians prioritizing Jewish mission or requiring Gentile conformity to Jewish customs. That "these only" of Jewish believers supported Paul suggests widespread Jewish Christian opposition or indifference to his imprisonment. These three men's faithfulness

during Paul's isolation demonstrates costly loyalty and shared commitment to Gentile inclusion gospel.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Who remains faithful when others abandon you, and do you treasure such friendship?
2. How do you respond when your theological convictions create tension with fellow believers?
3. What makes someone a 'comfort' during difficulty—presence, encouragement, shared labor, prayer?

Interlinear Text

καὶ Ἰησοῦς τοῦ λεγόμενος Ἰοῦστος τοῦ ὄντες ἐκ
And Jesus which is called Justus which are of
G2532 G2424 G3588 G3004 G2459 G3588 G5607 G1537

περιτομῆς οὗτοι μόνοι συνεργοὶ εἰς τοῦ
the circumcision These only are my fellowworkers unto which
G4061 G3778 G3441 G4904 G1519 G3588

βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ οἵτινες ἐγενήθησάν μοι
the kingdom which of God which have been unto me
G932 G3588 G2316 G3748 G1096 G3427

παρηγορία
a comfort
G3931

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:2 (Parallel theme): And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

Acts 10:45 (Parallel theme): And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

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

Romans 4:12 (Parallel theme): And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

2 Corinthians 6:1 (References God): We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Titus 1:10 (Parallel theme): For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Philemon 1:1 (References Jesus): Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

Ephesians 2:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (References God): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

1 Thessalonians 3:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: