

Colossians 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Analysis

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. Paul singles out Archippus for specific exhortation. "Say to Archippus" (kai eipate Archippō, καὶ εἶπατε Ἀρχίππῳ) delivers personal message through church. Archippus appears in Philemon 2 as "fellow soldier," suggesting significant ministry role, possibly Colossae's pastor after Epaphras left, or leadership position facing discouragement or temptation to quit.

"Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord" (blepe tēn diakonian hēn pareliabes en Kyriō, βλέπε τὴν διακονίαν ἣν παρέλαβες ἐν Κυρίῳ) commands careful attention to divinely assigned service. "That thou fulfil it" (hina autēn plērois, ἵνα αὐτὴν πληροῖς) urges completion—not starting well but finishing faithfully. Whatever discouragement, difficulty, or distraction Archippus faced, Paul calls him to persevere and complete his God-given ministry task.

Historical Context

Ministry in first-century church faced constant challenges: persecution, false teaching, internal conflict, personal discouragement. Leaders like Archippus needed encouragement to persevere. Paul's public exhortation through the church provided accountability and support, enlisting congregation to encourage their leader. This models healthy church dynamic where leaders receive support, accountability, and encouragement from those they serve.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What ministry has God given you that requires renewed diligence and commitment to fulfill?
2. How do you support and encourage your church leaders to complete their God-given ministries faithfully?
3. What threatens your perseverance in ministry—discouragement, distraction, difficulty—and how do you combat it?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπατε	Ἀρχίππῳ·	Βλέπε	τὴν	διακονίαν	ἣν
And	say	to Archippus	Take heed	G3588	to the ministry	which
G2532	G2036	G751	G991		G1248	G3739
παρέλαβες	ἐν	κυρίῳ	ἵνα	αὐτὴν	πληροῖς	
thou hast received	in	the Lord	that	it	thou fulfil	
G3880	G1722	G2962	G2443	G846	G4137	

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:2 (Parallel theme): And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Acts 1:17 (Parallel theme): For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

2 Timothy 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Acts 20:28 (Parallel theme): Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Acts 14:23 (References Lord): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Ephesians 4:11 (Parallel theme): And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

1 Timothy 4:6 (Parallel theme): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Timothy 6:20 (Parallel theme): O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

1 Timothy 4:16 (Parallel theme): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Leviticus 10:3 (References Lord): Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.