

Colossians 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

Analysis

Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts. Paul specifies Tychicus's dual purpose: "that he might know your estate" (hina gnō ta peri hymōn, ἵνα γνῶ τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν) and "comfort your hearts" (parakalesē tas kardias hymōn, παρακαλέσῃ τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν). Tychicus would gather information about Colossae for Paul and provide pastoral encouragement to the church. This bidirectional ministry—reporting back and strengthening forward—exemplifies faithful pastoral service.

The verb parakaleō (παρακαλέω, "comfort/encourage") appears throughout Paul's letters, describing ministry of strengthening believers through truth, presence, and prayer. Tychicus's visit would assure Colossians of Paul's continued concern despite physical absence, encouraging them to remain faithful amid doctrinal challenges.

Historical Context

Ancient communication was slow and difficult. Letters took weeks or months to arrive; personal visits were rare. Traveling representatives like Tychicus provided crucial link between apostle and churches, maintaining relationships and extending ministry beyond Paul's immediate location. Such representatives required complete trustworthiness since they represented apostolic authority and teaching.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who has God sent to encourage your heart, and do you receive such ministry gratefully?
2. How can you extend encouragement to fellow believers who feel isolated or discouraged?
3. What makes encouragement effective—truth, presence, prayer, or combination?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|------------|---------|---------|
| ὃν | ἔπεμψα | πρὸς | ὑμᾶς | εἰς | αὐτὸ | τοῦτο | ἵνα |
| Whom | I have sent | unto | you | for | the same | purpose | that |
| G3739 | G3992 | G4314 | G5209 | G1519 | G846 | G5124 | G2443 |
| γινῶ | τὰ | περὶ | ὑμῶν, | καὶ | παρακαλέσῃ | τὰς | καρδίας |
| he might know | G3588 | estate | your | and | comfort | G3588 | hearts |
| G1097 | | G4012 | G5216 | G2532 | G3870 | | G2588 |
| ὑμῶν, | | | | | | | |
| your | | | | | | | |
| G5216 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:22 (Parallel theme): Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

Colossians 2:2 (Parallel theme): That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

