

Galatians 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they glorified God in me.

Analysis

And they glorified God in me. The Judean churches' response validated Paul's ministry and gospel. "And they glorified God in me" (καὶ ἐδόξαζον ἐν ἐμοὶ τὸν θεόν) uses imperfect tense—continuous, repeated glorifying. Doxazō (δοξάζω) means "honor, praise, give glory to." "In me" (en emoi) indicates Paul's transformation and ministry occasioned their worship.

They didn't glorify Paul but glorified God "in" or "because of" Paul—recognizing his conversion and preaching as God's work, not human achievement. This response perfectly illustrates grace. If Paul's transformation and gospel proclaimed human ability or merit, they'd have praised Paul. Instead, they praised God, showing they understood salvation as divine work. Their glorifying God validated Paul's message.

This verse concludes Paul's autobiography defending his apostolic authority and gospel's divine origin. Summary:

1. his gospel came by revelation, not human tradition (1:11-12)
2. his past as persecutor proved supernatural intervention necessary (1:13-14)
3. God predestined and called him (1:15-16a)
4. his mission was to Gentiles (1:16b)
5. he didn't consult humans or receive Jerusalem training (1:16c-17)
6. his brief Jerusalem visit was insufficient for instruction (1:18-20)
7. he ministered independently in Syria-Cilicia (1:21)
8. Judean churches knew him only by reputation and glorified God for his ministry (1:22-24).

Conclusion: Paul's gospel and authority derive directly from Christ.

Historical Context

The Judean churches' acceptance of Paul despite minimal contact and his persecution background demonstrates early Christianity's ability to discern genuine conversion versus false claims. First-century churches faced numerous false teachers and needed discernment. Paul's consistent message, transformed life, and miraculous ministry (signs, wonders, fruit) authenticated his calling. Their glorifying God rather than admiring Paul reveals healthy theology recognizing divine agency in salvation and ministry. This response contradicted personality cults and human-centered religion prevalent in Greco-Roman culture. It modeled proper response to God's grace: worship of the Giver, not the instrument.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. When you hear of transformed lives and gospel ministry, is your first response to glorify God or admire human instruments?
2. In what specific ways does your life and ministry direct attention to God's glory rather than your abilities?
3. What evidence would convince skeptics that your faith results from genuine divine work rather than human effort?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐδόξαζον ἐν ἐμοὶ τὸν θεόν
And they glorified in me God
G2532 G1392 G1722 G1698 G3588 G2316

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