

Galatians 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour;
that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Analysis

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. The emphatic double negative *oude pros hōran* (οὐδὲ πρὸς ὥραν, "not even for an hour") shows Paul's unyielding stance—he refused *hypotagē* (ὑποταγή, "subjection/submission") to the false brothers' demands even momentarily. This wasn't personal stubbornness but principled defense of gospel truth.

The purpose clause reveals Paul's motivation: *hina hē alētheia tou euaggeliou diamenē pros hymas* (ἵνα ἡ ἀλήθεια τοῦ εὐαγγελίου διαμείνη πρὸς ὑμᾶς, "that the truth of the gospel might remain with you"). The verb *diamenē* (διαμείνη) means "continue" or "abide permanently"—Paul fought for the Galatians' future freedom, not just present circumstances. *Alētheia* (ἀλήθεια, "truth") isn't mere doctrinal accuracy but reality itself: salvation is by grace through faith, period.

Paul's refusal to compromise demonstrates that some theological issues are non-negotiable. The gospel isn't a starting point for negotiation but the foundation that cannot shift. When core doctrines like justification by faith are at stake, love demands confrontation, not accommodation. Paul's seemingly inflexible stance was actually the most loving response—preserving the Galatians' freedom in Christ.

Historical Context

Paul's refusal to circumcise Titus (v. 3) was the practical test of this principle. Any concession would have established precedent that Gentile converts needed circumcision for full acceptance. Within a generation, this would have made Christianity effectively inaccessible to Gentiles and transformed it into a Jewish sect rather than a universal faith. Paul's firmness at this moment shaped Christianity's future identity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What theological truths are so central to the gospel that they require unwavering defense?
2. When does love for others demand confrontation rather than compromise on doctrine?
3. In what situations might you be tempted to concede gospel truth for temporary peace or acceptance?

Interlinear Text

οἷς	οὐδὲ	πρὸς	ὥραν	εἵξαμεν	τῇ	ὑποταγῇ	ἵνα	ἡ
To whom	no not	for	an hour	we gave place	G3588	by subjection	that	G3588
G3739	G3761	G4314	G5610	G1502		G5292	G2443	
ἀλήθεια	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	διαμείνη	πρὸς	ὑμᾶς			
the truth	G3588	of the gospel	might continue	for	you			
G225		G2098	G1265	G4314	G5209			

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 4:16 (Truth): Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Galatians 2:14 (Truth): But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Colossians 1:5 (Truth): For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Ephesians 1:13 (Truth): In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

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