

Galatians 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

Analysis

But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter. The adversative tounantion (τούναντίον, "on the contrary") introduces the Jerusalem apostles' recognition of Paul's distinct calling. The perfect passive verb pepisteumai (πεπίστευμαι, "I have been entrusted") appears twice—Paul was entrusted with to euaggelion tēs akrobystias (τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς ἀκροβυστίας, "the gospel of the uncircumcision/Gentiles"), while Peter received tēs peritomēs (τῆς περιτομῆς, "of the circumcision/Jews").

Critically, Paul speaks of one gospel with two spheres of ministry, not two different gospels. The genitive tēs akrobystias is objective—the gospel directed toward the uncircumcised—not a different message but the same grace applied to different audiences. The verb episteuō with the dative means "entrust" as a stewardship; God is the one who assigns mission fields, not human committees.

This divine division of labor validated Paul's apostleship to Gentiles as fully as Peter's to Jews. The Jerusalem leaders saw (ἰδόντες, idontes)—recognized through evidence, not merely theory—God's hand on Paul's ministry. His success among Gentiles demonstrated divine approval, requiring no human validation or modification of his message.

Historical Context

Peter's ministry focused primarily on Jewish audiences (Acts 2-12), while Paul became the apostle to Gentiles (Acts 13-28). This division wasn't absolute—Peter preached to Cornelius (Acts 10), and Paul regularly began ministry in synagogues—but reflected primary callings. The Jerusalem leaders' recognition of this distinction prevented a damaging power struggle and allowed complementary ministries to flourish.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's diverse gifting of different workers for different ministries demonstrate the unity and breadth of the gospel?
2. What evidence in your life demonstrates God's calling to specific ministry rather than merely personal preference?
3. Why is it vital to distinguish between one gospel with diverse applications versus multiple competing gospels?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	τούναντίον	ἰδόντες	ὅτι	πεπίστευμαι	τὸ
But	contrariwise	when they saw	that	was committed unto me	G3588
G235	G5121	G1492	G3754	G4100	
εὐαγγέλιον	τῆς	ἀκροβυστίας	καθὼς	Πέτρος	τῆς
the gospel	G3588	of the uncircumcision	as	was unto Peter	G3588
G2098		G203	G2531	G4074	
περιτομῆς					
the gospel of the circumcision					
G4061					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:15 (Parallel theme): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

1 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 (Parallel theme): But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Galatians 1:16 (Parallel theme): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

1 Timothy 1:11 (Parallel theme): According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Galatians 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

2 Timothy 1:11 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Acts 28:28 (Parallel theme): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Acts 15:12 (Parallel theme): Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

Acts 18:6 (Parallel theme): And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.