

Matthew 18:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Analysis

Reformed theology emphasizes the divine initiative evident in this text. The verse connects to broader biblical themes of covenant, redemption, and God's unchanging character. Understanding this passage requires recognizing both its historical context and its application to Christian life.

Historical Context

This verse originates in Jesus' ministry during a pivotal period. The first-century Jewish context included Roman occupation, Pharisaic religious authority, and messianic expectations. Understanding these factors illuminates the passage's significance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?

3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀκούσῃ παράλαβε μετὰ σοῦ ἔτι ἓνα ἢ
G1437 But G3361 he will thee then take with thee more one or
G1161 G191 G3880 G3326 G4675 G2089 G1520 G2228

δύο ἵνα ἐπὶ στόματος δύο μαρτύρων ἢ τριῶν
of two that in the mouth of two witnesses or three
G1417 G2443 G1909 G4750 G1417 G3144 G2228 G5140

σταθῇ πᾶν ῥῆμα·
may be established every word
G2476 G3956 G4487

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 19:15 (Witness): One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

1 Timothy 5:19 (Witness): Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

2 Corinthians 13:1 (Word): This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

John 8:17 (Word): It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

Hebrews 10:28 (Word): He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Deuteronomy 17:6 (Witness): At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Numbers 35:30 (Witness): Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die.

1 Kings 21:13 (Witness): And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

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