

Philippians 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Analysis

But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel (οἱ δὲ ἔξ ἀγάπης, εἰδότες ὅτι εἰς ἀπολογίαν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου κεῖμαι, hoi de ex agapēs, eidotes hoti eis apologian tou euangeliou keimai)—Ex agapēs ("from love, out of love") identifies the pure motive contrasting with envy (v. 15) and selfish ambition (v. 16). These preachers **know** (εἰδότες, eidotes, perfect participle) with settled understanding Paul's divine appointment.

I am set for the defence of the gospel (εἰς ἀπολογίαν τοῦ εὐαγγελίου κεῖμαι, eis apologian tou euangeliou keimai)—keimai ("I am appointed, destined, set in place") suggests divine positioning. Apologian ("defense") is legal terminology; Paul's trial becomes a gospel platform. The loving preachers recognize Paul's imprisonment as strategic, not accidental, and support rather than undermine his mission. Their love produces theological insight into God's sovereignty.

Historical Context

Paul's defense before Caesar (Acts 25:11-12) was a high-stakes platform for gospel proclamation to Rome's highest authorities. Loving Christians recognized this providential opportunity and intensified evangelism to support Paul's mission. Apologia appears in 1 Peter 3:15 ("ready to give an answer") and describes both legal defense and theological explanation—Paul's trial was both.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does love for Christ's servants produce theological insight into God's purposes?
2. Do you view others' hardships as strategic appointments or tragic accidents?
3. How can you support those 'set for the defense of the gospel' in your generation?

Interlinear Text

οὶ	δὲ	ἕξ	ἀγάπης,	εἰδότες	ὅτι	εἰς	ἀπολογίαν	τοῦ
G3588	But	the other of	love	knowing	that	for	the defence	G3588
G1161		G1537	G26	G1492	G3754	G1519	G627	

εὐαγγελίου κεῖμαι

of the gospel I am set

G2098 G2749

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 2:3 (Parallel theme): Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.