

Philippians 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Analysis

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death (κατὰ τὴν ἀποκαραδοκίαν καὶ ἐλπίδα μου ὅτι ἐν οὐδενὶ αἰσχυνθήσομαι, kata tēn apokaradokian kai elpida mou hoti en oudeni aischynthēsomai)—Apokaradokia ("eager expectation") combines apo ("away from"), kara ("head"), and dokeo ("watch")—watching with head turned away from distractions, focused anticipation.

Paul's hope: **in nothing I shall be ashamed** (ἐν οὐδενὶ αἰσχυνθήσομαι, en oudeni aischynthēsomai)—not losing nerve under pressure. Instead, **with all boldness** (ἐν πάσῃ παρρησίᾳ, en pasē parrēsia), **Christ shall be magnified in my body** (μεγαλυνθήσεται Χριστὸς ἐν τῷ σώματί μου, megalynthēsetai Christos en tō sōmati mou). Megalynthēsetai ("shall be magnified, made great") means Christ displayed as supremely valuable. **Whether by life or death** (εἴτε διὰ ζωῆς εἴτε διὰ θανάτου, eite dia zōēs eite dia thanatou)—both outcomes glorify Christ if received faithfully.

Historical Context

Roman executions of Christians often occurred publicly to deter others. Paul faced the prospect of martyrdom before Nero. Yet he viewed both acquittal (life) and execution (death) as equally viable platforms for magnifying Christ. This eschatological perspective—living toward Christ's glory, not self-preservation—distinguished Christian martyrs and astonished pagan observers.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What would 'eager expectation' (apokaradokia) look like in your spiritual life —focused, undistracted hope?
2. Can you honestly say both life and death would equally magnify Christ in your circumstances?
3. What causes you shame before others, and how does Christ's magnification overcome it?

Interlinear Text

κατὰ	τὴν	ἀποκαραδοκίαν	καὶ	ἐλπίδα	μου	ὅτι	ἐν
According	G3588	earnest expectation	also	my hope	my	that	in
	G2596		G2532	G1680	G3450	G3754	G1722
οὐδενὶ	αἰσχυνθήσομαι	ἀλλ'	ἐν	πάσῃ	παρρήσιᾳ	ώς	
nothing	I shall be ashamed	but	in	all	boldness	as	
	G3762	G153	G235	G1722	G3956	G3954	G5613
πάντοτε	καὶ	νῦν	μεγαλυνθήσεται	Χριστὸς	ἐν	τῷ	
always	also	so now	shall be magnified	Christ	in		G3588
	G3842	G2532	G3568	G3170	G5547	G1722	
σώματί	μου	εἴτε	διὰ	ζωῆς	εἴτε	διὰ	θανάτου
body	my	or	by	life	or	by	death
	G4983	G3450	G1535	G1223	G2222	G1535	G2288

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 4:16 (References Christ): Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Isaiah 54:4 (Parallel theme): Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (References Christ): And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Romans 8:19 (Parallel theme): For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Isaiah 50:7 (Parallel theme): For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Psalms 119:116 (Hope): Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

1 Corinthians 7:34 (Parallel theme): There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

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