

Philippians 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart (καθὼς ἐστὶν δίκαιον ἐμοὶ τοῦτο φρονεῖν, *kathōs estin dikaion emoi touto phronein*)—Dikaion ("right, just, proper") indicates Paul's confidence is morally fitting, grounded in evidence. **I have you in my heart** (διὰ τὸ ἔχειν με ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμᾶς, *dia to echein me en tē kardia hymas*) could be translated "you have me in your heart"—Greek word order allows both. Mutual affection characterizes this relationship.

Inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace (ἐν τοῖς δεσμοῖς μου καὶ ἐν τῇ ἀπολογίᾳ καὶ βεβαιώσει τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, *en tois desmois mou kai en tē apologia kai bebaiōsei tou euangeliou*)—Apologia ("defense") and bebaiōsis ("confirmation, establishment") suggest legal and theological vindication. Synkoinōnoi ("fellow-partakers") indicates shared participation in Paul's gospel-commission and attendant suffering. **My grace** (τῆς χάριτός μου, *tēs charitos mou*) is apostolic grace—the privileged suffering appointed to Paul's ministry.

Historical Context

Paul's 'bonds' (δεσμοίς, desmois) refer to Roman imprisonment. His 'defense' may allude to preliminary hearings before Caesar's tribunal. Philippi's partnership included financial support during imprisonment and possibly advocacy or testimony on Paul's behalf. In Roman legal culture, character witnesses from prominent cities (like the colony Philippi) carried weight.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Who do you 'have in your heart' with the depth of affection Paul shows the Philippians?
2. How are you a 'fellow-partaker' in gospel defense and confirmation in your cultural context?
3. What does it mean to share in someone's apostolic 'grace'—their calling and consequent suffering?

Interlinear Text

καθώς	ἐστίν	δίκαιον	ἐμοὶ	τοῦτο	φρονεῖν	ὑπὲρ	πάντας		
Even as	it is	meet	for me	this	to think	of	all		
G2531	G2076	G1342	G1698	G5124	G5426	G5228	G3956		
ὑμῶν	διὰ	τὸ	ἔχειν	με	ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	ὑμᾶς	ἐν
you	because	G3588	I have	my	in	G3588	heart	ye	in
G5216	G1223		G2192	G3165	G1722		G2588	G5209	G1722
τε	τοῖς	δεσμοῖς	μου	καὶ	τῇ	ἀπολογίᾳ	καὶ		
inasmuch as both	G3588	bonds	my	and	G3588	in the defence	and		
G5037		G1199	G3450	G2532		G627	G2532		
βεβαιώσει	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	συγκοινωνοῦς	μου	τῆς				
confirmation	G3588	of the gospel	partakers	my	G3588				
G951		G2098	G4791	G3450					
χάριτος	πάντας	ὑμᾶς	ὄντας						
grace	all	ye	are						
G5485	G3956	G5209	G5607						

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 7:3 (Parallel theme): I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.

Philippians 1:5 (Parallel theme): For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

2 Timothy 2:9 (Parallel theme): Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Colossians 4:18 (Grace): The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Acts 20:23 (Parallel theme): Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Ephesians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 3:1 (Parallel theme): For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Philippians 4:14 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Hebrews 3:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Acts 21:33 (Parallel theme): Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.