

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 (καθώς ἔστιν δίκαιον ἐμοὶ τοῦτο φρονεῖν, kathōs estin dikaiion 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' (δεσμοῖς, 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

Psalm 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 ἔστιν 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 I have my in heart ye in
G5216 G1223 G3588 G2192 G3165 G1722 G2588 G5209 G1722

τε τοῖς δεσμοῖς μου καὶ τῇ ἀπολογίᾳ καὶ
inasmuch as both bonds my and in the defence and
G5037 G3588 G1199 G3450 G2532 G627 G2532

βεβαιώσει τοῦ εὐαγγελίου συγκοινωνούς 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.