

Philippians 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Analysis

For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me (τὸ δὲ αὐτὸ καὶ ὑμεῖς χαίρετε καὶ συγχαίρετέ μοι, *to de auto kai hymeis chairete kai synchairete moi*)—To de auto ("the same thing, likewise") links Philippians' response to Paul's joy (v. 17). Chairete kai synchairete ("rejoice and rejoice with") are present imperatives—commands for ongoing, mutual joy. Moi ("with me") makes joy corporate, shared. Paul doesn't want their grief but their joy.

This reciprocal joy (Paul rejoices with them, v. 17; they rejoice with him, v. 18) models Christian community. Suffering doesn't produce sorrow but shared joy rooted in gospel confidence. This is Philippians' dominant theme: joy transcending circumstances, grounded in Christ. Paul's potential martyrdom occasions celebration, not lamentation, because death is gain (1:21) and Christ is exalted (1:20). The call to rejoice in another's suffering seems callous unless rooted in resurrection hope.

Historical Context

Ancient mourning customs involved public lamentation, wailing, and extended grief. Paul subverts this: his death deserves celebration. This reflects Jesus's teaching that disciples shouldn't mourn when the bridegroom is taken (Matt 9:15) because resurrection guarantees reunion. Early Christian funerals became victory celebrations (Latin: *dies natalis*, "birthday" into eternal life). Greco-Roman culture found this incomprehensible—but it testified to resurrection faith.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you 'rejoice with' (synchairete) those who suffer or face death like Paul did?
2. What would it take for you to command others to rejoice over your suffering or martyrdom?
3. How does resurrection hope transform grief into joy in Christian community?

Interlinear Text

τὸ	δ'	αὐτὸ	καὶ	ὕμεῖς	χαίρετε	καὶ	συγχαίρετέ
G3588	For	the same cause	also	ye	do	also	rejoice with
	G1161	G846	G2532	G5210	G5463	G2532	G4796
μοι							
me							
G3427							

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 4:4 (Parallel theme): Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 3:1 (Parallel theme): Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.