

Philippians 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Analysis

But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel (τὴν δὲ δοκιμὴν αὐτοῦ γινώσκετε, ὅτι ὡς πατρὶ τέκνον σὺν ἐμοὶ ἐδούλευσεν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, tēn de dokimēn autou ginōskete, hoti hōs patri teknon syn emoi edouleusen eis to euangelion)—Dokimēn ("proof, tested character") is metallurgical—tested metal proven genuine. Ginōskete ("you know") appeals to Philippians' direct experience. Hōs patri teknon ("as a child to a father") describes Paul-Timothy relationship. Teknon ("child") emphasizes affection, not merely huios (legal son-status).

Syn emoi edouleusen ("he served with me")—edouleusen ("he served as a slave") recalls doulos ("slave") from 2:7 (Christ's slave-form). Eis to euangelion ("unto/for the gospel") identifies the cause. Timothy served with Paul, not under him—though the father-son metaphor suggests subordination. This balance—filial affection and partnership—marks ideal Christian relationships. Timothy's proven character (dokimē) over years of ministry validated his delegation. He embodies Christ-hymn values in action.

Historical Context

Timothy joined Paul's team during the second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-3), meaning he was with Paul when Philippi was founded. The Philippians knew Timothy personally and had witnessed his faithful service for over a decade. In Greco-Roman culture, father-son relationships involved both authority and

inheritance. Paul adopts this metaphor for spiritual mentorship—Timothy is spiritual son and ministry heir.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Who has 'proven character' (dokimē) in your observation—tested and found genuine?
2. How can you serve 'with' (syn) leaders like Timothy served with Paul—partnership under authority?
3. What does it mean to 'serve as a slave' (douleusen) 'for the gospel' (eis to euangelion) in your context?

Interlinear Text

τὴν	δὲ	δοκιμὴν	αὐτοῦ	γινώσκετε	ὅτι	ὥς	πατρί
G3588	But	the proof	of him	ye know	that	as	with the father
G1161	G1161	G1382	G846	G1097	G3754	G5613	G3962
τέκνον	σὺν	ἐμοὶ	ἐδούλευσεν	εἰς	τὸ	εὐαγγέλιον	
a son	with	me	he hath served	in	G3588	the gospel	
G5043	G4862	G1698	G1398	G1519		G2098	

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 4:17 (Parallel theme): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Timothy 1:2 (Parallel theme): Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 2:9 (Parallel theme): For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

2 Corinthians 8:22 (Parallel theme): And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

2 Timothy 1:2 (Parallel theme): To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

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