

Philippians 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

Analysis

Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me (Τοῦτον μὲν οὖν ἐλπίζω πέμψαι ὥς ἂν ἀφίδω τὰ περὶ ἐμὲ ἐξαυτῆς, Touton men oun elpizō pempesai hōs an aphidō ta peri eme exautēs)—Touton...elpizō pempesai ("him I hope to send") reiterates v. 19. Men oun ("therefore") draws conclusion from Timothy's commendation (vv. 20-22): because he's trustworthy, Paul will send him. Hōs an aphidō ("as soon as I see") makes timing conditional. Ta peri eme ("the things concerning me") refers to his trial outcome. Exautēs ("presently, immediately") promises prompt dispatch once clarity comes.

Paul's plans are flexible, contingent on circumstances. He awaits trial resolution before sending Timothy. This models Christian planning: purposeful but provisional, confident yet humble before providence. Paul trusts God's sovereignty (v. 19, "in the Lord Jesus") while actively planning. Faith doesn't eliminate planning but subordinates plans to God's will.

Historical Context

Roman legal proceedings were unpredictable in length and outcome. Paul's case had been pending (Acts 28:30 mentions two years). He couldn't send Timothy until knowing whether he'd be released (allowing personal visit, v. 24) or executed (making Timothy essential for Philippian care). Ancient communication delays made delegation timing crucial. Letters and envoys were primary pastoral tools.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you balance purposeful planning with submission to providence like Paul does?
2. What pending outcomes are you awaiting before making decisions, and how do you wait faithfully?
3. How does trusting 'in the Lord Jesus' (v. 19) shape your contingency planning?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| τοῦτον G5126 | μὲν G3303 | οὖν G3767 | ἐλπίζω G1679 | πέμψαι G3992 | ὥς G5613 | ἂν G302 | ἀπιδώ G542 |
| | Him | therefore | I hope | to send | so soon as | I | shall see |
| τὰ G3588 | περὶ G4012 | ἔμε G1691 | ἐξαυτῆς· G1824 | | | | |
| | how | it will go with me | presently | | | | |

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org