

Philippians 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Analysis

I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful (σπουδαιοτέρως οὖν ἔπεμψα αὐτόν, ἵνα ἰδόντες αὐτόν πάλιν χαρῆτε, κἀγὼ ἀλυπότερος ὢ, spoudaioterōs oun epempsa auton, hina idontes auton palin charēte, kagō alypoteros ō)—Spoudaioterōs (comparative: "more eagerly, more carefully") shows urgency. Epempsa ("I sent," epistolary aorist) refers to this letter's delivery via Epaphroditus. Hina...charēte ("that you may rejoice")—Paul orchestrates joy: Epaphroditus's return will bring celebration.

Kagō alypoteros ō ("I may be less sorrowful")—alypoteros ("less grieved," comparative of alypos) admits Paul's ongoing sorrow. His grief lifts knowing Epaphroditus reunites with his church. This mutual joy-seeking (their joy, his reduced sorrow) exemplifies 2:4 (looking to others' things). Paul sends Epaphroditus not from weakness but love—reuniting him with concerned church while relieving Paul's burden of their collective worry.

Historical Context

Paul's sending Epaphroditus demonstrates pastoral wisdom: Epaphroditus needed home recovery, Philippians needed reassurance, and Paul gained peace knowing both were cared for. Ancient leaders often delayed releasing valued workers; Paul's release of Epaphroditus shows gospel-shaped priorities (others' good over

personal convenience). The letter's purpose includes introducing Epaphroditus so Philippians receive him well (v. 29).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you prioritize others' joy ('that you may rejoice,' charête) even when it costs you personally?
2. What workers have you reluctantly 'sent' because their absence served others better than their presence served you?
3. How does Paul's 'less sorrowful' (alypoteros) honesty model appropriate emotional transparency in leadership?

Interlinear Text

σπουδαιοτέρως	οὖν	ἔπεμψα	αὐτὸν	ἵνα	ἰδόντες	αὐτὸν
the more carefully	therefore	I sent	him	that	when ye see	him
G4708	G3767	G3992	G846	G2443	G1492	G846
πάλιν	χαρῆτε	καὶ γὰρ	ἁλυπότερος	ὦ		
again	ye may rejoice	and that I	the less sorrowful	may be		
G3825	G5463	G2504	G253	G5600		

Additional Cross-References

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

2 Timothy 1:4 (Parallel theme): Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

Acts 20:38 (Parallel theme): Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

2 Corinthians 2:3 (Parallel theme): And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.

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