

Philippians 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord (Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί μου, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ, To loipon, adelphoi mou, chairete en kyriō)—To loipon ("finally, moreover") may signal conclusion or transition to new section. Chairete en kyriō ("rejoice in the Lord") repeats the epistle's dominant command (1:4, 18; 2:17-18; 4:4). Joy in the Lord (ἐν κυρίῳ, en kyriō) isn't circumstantial but christological—rooted in union with Christ.

To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe (τὰ αὐτὰ γράφειν ὑμῖν, ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐκ ὀκνηρόν, ὑμῖν δὲ ἀσφαλές, ta auta graphein hymin, emoi men ouk oknēron, hymin de asphales)—Ta auta ("the same things") may reference previous oral teaching or earlier letter. Oknēron ("burdensome, troublesome") Paul dismisses—repetition serves them. Asphales ("safe, secure, certain") indicates protection. Repetition guards against error. Paul's upcoming warnings (v. 2) about false teachers show why safety requires repeated teaching.

Historical Context

Philippi faced Judaizing teachers (v. 2) insisting Gentile Christians adopt Jewish law (circumcision, dietary rules). This heresy plagued Paul's churches (Galatians addresses it extensively). Repetition of gospel essentials protected against

doctrinal drift. Paul's apostolic authority allowed frank warnings without offense —'same things' didn't bore but secured them in truth.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul call believers to 'rejoice in the Lord' repeatedly throughout Philippians?
2. How does repetition of core gospel truths provide 'safety' (asphales) against false teaching?
3. What 'same things' do you need to hear repeatedly for your spiritual security?

Interlinear Text

Tò	λοιπόν	ἀδελφοί	μου	χαίρετε	ἐν	κυρίῳ	τὰ
G3588	Finally	brethren	my	rejoice	in	the Lord	G3588
	G3063	G80	G3450	G5463	G1722	G2962	
αὐτὰ	γράφειν	ὑμῖν	ἐμοὶ	μὲν	οὐκ	όκνηρόν	ὑμῖν
the same things	To write	for you	to me	indeed	is not	grievous	for you
G846	G1125	G5213	G1698	G3303	G3756	G3636	G5213
δὲ	ἀσφαλές						
but	it is safe						
G1161	G804						

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 4:4 (References Lord): Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Romans 5:11 (References Lord): And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (Parallel theme): Rejoice evermore.

James 1:2 (Parallel theme): My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

1 Peter 4:13 (Parallel theme): But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Philippians 4:8 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

1 Peter 3:8 (Parallel theme): Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Psalms 37:4 (References Lord): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Job 22:26 (Parallel theme): For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.