

Philippians 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Analysis

Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction (πλὴν καλῶς ἐποιήσατε συγκοινωνήσαντές μου τῇ θλίψει, plēn kalōs epoiēsate synkoinōnēsantes mou tē thlipsei)—Plēn ("nevertheless, yet") transitions from self-sufficiency (vv. 11-13) to gratitude for Philippian support. Kalōs epoiēsate ("you did well")—commendation. Synkoinōnēsantes mou tē thlipsei ("having shared with me in affliction")—synkoinōneō ("to share together, participate with") shows partnership. Their gift wasn't mere charity but koinōnia ("fellowship")—sharing Paul's suffering and mission. This balances vv. 11-13: Paul doesn't need them, but their giving blesses them (vv. 17, 19) and honors God. He's content alone yet grateful for partnership.

Historical Context

Philippian support was unique: they alone partnered financially with Paul consistently (v. 15). Their gift to imprisoned Paul showed courage (associating with prisoner was politically risky) and love. Paul's gratitude is warm but qualified—he doesn't want them feeling obligated or him appearing mercenary. His balance models pastoral receiving of support: grateful without being demanding, self-sufficient yet appreciative.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul balance contentment (vv. 11-13) with gratitude for support (v. 14) without contradiction?
2. What does it mean to 'share in affliction' (synkoinōnēsantes tē thipsei) beyond mere financial giving?
3. How can you cultivate gratitude for others' support while maintaining contentment in Christ alone?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|
| πλὴν | καλῶς | ἐποιήσατε | συγκοινωνήσαντές | μου |
| Notwithstanding | ye have well | done | that ye did communicate with | my |
| G4133 | G2573 | G4160 | G4790 | G3450 |
| τῇ | θλίψει | | | |
| G3588 | affliction | | | |
| | G2347 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Hebrews 10:34 (Parallel theme): For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Galatians 6:6 (Parallel theme): Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

1 Kings 8:18 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

Philippians 4:18 (Parallel theme): But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

1 Timothy 6:18 (Parallel theme): That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Romans 15:27 (Parallel theme): It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

Matthew 25:21 (Parallel theme): His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2 Chronicles 6:8 (Parallel theme): But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart: