

Philippians 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Analysis

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only (Οἶδατε δὲ καὶ ὑμεῖς, Φιλιππηῖοι, ὅτι ἐν ἀρχῇ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, ὅτε ἐξῆλθον ἀπὸ Μακεδονίας, οὐδεμία μοι ἐκκλησία ἐκοινῶνησεν εἰς λόγον δόσεως καὶ λήψεως εἰ μὴ ὑμεῖς μόνοι, Oidate de kai hymeis, Philippēsiōi, hoti en archē tou euangelίου, hote exēlthon apo Makedonias, oudemia moi ekklēsia ekoinōnēsen eis logon doseōs kai lēmpseōs ei mē hymeis monoī)—En archē tou euangelίου ("in beginning of the gospel")—Paul's Macedonian mission (Acts 16-17, c. AD 49-50). Oudemia...ekklēsia ekoinōnēsen ("no church shared")—only Philippi partnered. Eis logon doseōs kai lēmpseōs ("in the matter of giving and receiving")—accounting language, commercial partnership. Ei mē hymeis monoī ("except you alone")—exclusive partnership. This verse begins historical review (vv. 15-16) establishing Philippi's unique, long-standing support. Their faithfulness from 'beginning' validates relationship.

Historical Context

When Paul left Philippi (Acts 17:1), he went to Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth. Philippi sent support multiple times (v. 16). Most churches didn't support Paul financially; he often worked tentmaking (Acts 18:3; 1 Cor 9:12-18). Corinth

particularly failed to support him, causing tension (2 Cor 11:7-12). Philippi's consistent generosity distinguished them. Paul's refusal of some churches' support related to avoiding appearance of greed (1 Thess 2:5-9); he accepted Philippian gifts because their motives were pure.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why did Paul accept Philippian support but refuse it from other churches (e.g., Corinth)?
2. What does exclusive, long-standing partnership ('from the beginning') teach about faithful giving?
3. How can churches today embody Philippi's 'giving and receiving' (dōseōs kai lēmpseōs) partnership?

Interlinear Text

Οἶδατε	δὲ	καὶ	ὕμεῖς	Φιλιππηῖσι	ὅτι	ἐν	ἀρχῇ
know	Now	also	ye	Philippians	that	in	the beginning
G1492	G1161	G2532	G5210	G5374	G3754	G1722	G746
τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	ὅτε	ἐξῆλθον	ἀπὸ	Μακεδονίας	οὐδεμία	
G3588	of the gospel	when	I departed	from	Macedonia	no	
	G2098	G3753	G1831	G575	G3109	G3762	
μοι	ἐκκλησία	ἐκοινώνησεν	εἰς	λόγον	δόσεως	καὶ	
me	church	communicated with	as	concerning	giving	also	
G3427	G1577	G2841	G1519	G3056	G1394	G2532	
λήψεως,	εἰ	μὴ	ὕμεῖς	μόνοι			
receiving	G1487	G3361	ye	only			
G3028			G5210	G3441			

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 1:5 (Parallel theme): For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

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