

Philippians 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Analysis

For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity (ὅτι καὶ ἐν Θεσσαλονίκη καὶ ἅπαξ καὶ δις εἰς τὴν χρεῖαν μοι ἐπέμψατε, *hoti kai en Thessalonikē kai hapax kai dis eis tēn chreian moi epempsate*)—Kai en Thessalonikē ("even in Thessalonica")—Paul's next stop after Philippi (Acts 17:1-9). Hapax kai dis ("once and again," literally "once and twice")—repeated gifts. Eis tēn chreian ("unto my necessity")—they met his need. Philippian generosity began immediately and continued. Even when Paul was nearby (Thessalonica is ~100 miles from Philippi), they sent support. This documents decade-plus pattern: Philippi consistently, repeatedly, generously supported Paul's mission. Their current gift (v. 18) continues long precedent.

Historical Context

Paul spent only short time in Thessalonica (Acts 17:2—three Sabbaths minimum, possibly longer). Even during that brief ministry, Philippi sent multiple gifts. This reveals their economic capacity and spiritual generosity. Macedonia was economically depressed (2 Cor 8:1-2), yet Philippian church gave sacrificially. Their example shamed wealthier Corinthian church's stinginess. Acts doesn't mention these gifts; Paul's letters reveal behind-scenes financial partnerships sustaining mission.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Philippi's immediate, repeated giving ('once and again') teach about faithful financial partnership?
2. How can economically struggling believers/churches model Philippi's sacrificial generosity?
3. Who are the missionaries/ministers you support 'once and again' with consistent partnership?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι καὶ ἐν Θεσσαλονίκη καὶ ἅπαξ καὶ δις εἰς τὴν
For and in Thessalonica and G3754 G2532 G1722 G2332 G2532 G530 G2532 G1364 G1519
again unto G3588

χρείαν μοι ἐπέμψατε
necessity my ye sent
G5532 G3427 G3992

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 2:9 (Parallel theme): For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Acts 17:1 (Parallel theme): Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: