

Romans 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Analysis

Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Paul uses a characteristic phrase: *ou thelō de humas agnoein* (οὐ θέλω δὲ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν, 'I do not want you to be ignorant'), which he employs to introduce important information (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13). Addressing them as *adelphoi* (ἀδελφοί, brethren) reinforces familial bond. Paul clarifies that his delay in visiting was not neglect: *hoti pollakis proethemēn elthein pros humas* (ὅτι πολλάκις προεθέμην ἐλθεῖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς, 'that many times I purposed to come to you').

Kai ekōluthēn achri tou deuro (καὶ ἐκωλύθην ἄχρι τοῦ δεῦρο, 'but was hindered until now') uses a passive verb—Paul was hindered, presumably by providence, ministry needs elsewhere, or satanic opposition (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:18). His motivation for coming is *hina tina karpon schō kai en humin* (ἵνα τινὰ καρπὸν σχῶ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν, 'that I might have some fruit among you also'). *Karpon* (fruit) likely means converts, strengthened believers, or spiritual results of ministry. *Kathōs kai en tois loipois ethnesin* (καθὼς καὶ ἐν τοῖς λοιποῖς ἔθνεσιν, 'even as among the other Gentiles') identifies Rome as part of Paul's Gentile mission field.

Historical Context

Paul's missionary strategy focused on major urban centers from which the gospel could spread regionally (Acts 19:10). By 57 AD, he had planted churches throughout Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Achaia. Rome was the empire's capital, and establishing the church there would have strategic gospel impact. Paul's repeated plans to visit, though hindered, demonstrate persistent commitment to fulfilling his apostolic calling to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When your plans are 'hindered' (κωλύω), how do you discern whether it is divine providence, satanic opposition, or simply circumstances?
2. What 'fruit' (καρπός) is God calling you to bear in your current sphere of influence, even if it is not where you envisioned?
3. How can you faithfully labor for gospel fruit without measuring success by worldly metrics of size, speed, or visibility?

Interlinear Text

οὐ θέλω δὲ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν ἀδελφοί ὅτι πολλάκις
not I would Now you have brethren that oftentimes
G3756 G2309 G1161 G5209 G50 G80 G3754 G4178

προεθέμην ἐλθεῖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς καὶ ἐκωλύθην ἄχρι τοῦ
I purposed to come unto you (but was let hitherto G3588
G4388 G2064 G4314 G5209 G2532 G2967 G891

δεῦρο ἵνα καρπὸν τινὰ σχῶ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν καθὼς
that fruit some I might have (but among you even as
G1204 G2443 G2590 G5100 G2192 G2532 G1722 G5213 G2531

καὶ ἐν τοῖς λοιποῖς ἔθνεσιν
(but among other Gentiles
G2532 G1722 G3588 G3062 G1484

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:21 (Parallel theme): After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Philippians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (Parallel theme): But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 (Parallel theme): Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

1 Corinthians 12:1 (Parallel theme): Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 10:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 Corinthians 1:8 (Parallel theme): For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Colossians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Romans 11:25 (Parallel theme): For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.