

Romans 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

Analysis

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles— hymin legō tois ethnesin (ὑμῖν λέγω τοῖς ἔθνεσιν). Paul now addresses Gentile believers directly, reminding them of his apostolic calling (Acts 9:15; 22:21; Galatians 2:7-8). He is ethnōn apostolos (ἔθνων ἀπόστολος), commissioned specifically to Gentiles. The phrase **I magnify mine office** (doxazō mou tēn diakonian, δοξάζω μου τὴν διακονίαν) means "I glorify my ministry."

Paul is not boasting but explaining his strategic focus. By magnifying his Gentile ministry, he hopes to accomplish the goal stated in verse 11—provoking Israel to jealousy. The more Gentiles come to faith, the more evident God's blessing becomes, ideally stirring Israel to recognize their Messiah. Paul's mission to Gentiles is not anti-Israel; it's for Israel's ultimate salvation. His evangelistic strategy has eschatological purpose.

Historical Context

Paul wrote as a Jewish apostle to predominantly Gentile churches (Romans 1:5-6). His identity was complex: ethnically Jewish but called to Gentiles. This dual identity equipped him uniquely to address Jewish-Gentile tensions in the church.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's 'magnifying' his ministry to Gentiles demonstrate that God's purposes for Israel and the nations are interconnected, not opposed?
2. What does it mean that Christian mission to Gentiles should provoke Israel to jealousy rather than contempt?
3. How can Christians today 'magnify' their calling in a way that honors God's ongoing purposes for ethnic Israel?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγώ	ἐθνῶν	ἀπόστολος	τὴν	διακονίαν	μου	δοξάζω	
I	Gentiles	the apostle	G3588	office	mine	I magnify	
G1473	G1484	G652		G1248	G3450	G1392	
Ἐγὼ	ἐθνῶν	τοῖς	ἐθνῶν	ἐφ'	ὅσον	μὲν	είμι
I	Gentiles	I speak	G3588	inasmuch as	G3745	G3303	am
G5213	G1063	G3004		G1484		G1510	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:15 (Parallel theme): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 13:2 (Parallel theme): As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 22:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Ephesians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

1 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Galatians 1:16 (Parallel theme): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

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