

Romans 15:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Analysis

That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea (ἵνα ῥυσθῶ ἀπὸ τῶν ἀπειθούντων ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ, hina rhysthō apo tōn apeithountōn en tē Ioudaia)—Paul's first prayer request: rhysthō (be delivered, rescued) from tōn apeithountōn (those who disobey/disbelieve). Apeithountōn describes unbelieving Jews actively opposing Paul (not merely non-Christians but hostile opponents). Paul faced constant Jewish opposition throughout his ministry (Acts 9:23, 29, 13:45, 50, 14:2, 19, 17:5, 13, 18:12-13, 21:27-31). He feared assassination or mob violence in Jerusalem.

And that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints (καὶ ἵνα ἡ διακονία μου ἡ εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ εὐπρόσδεκτος τοῖς ἁγίοις γένηται, kai hina hē diakonia mou hē eis Ierousalēm euprosdektos tois hagiois genētai)—The second request: that his diakonia (service, ministry)—the collection—be euprosdektos (acceptable, well-received) by Jerusalem believers. This reveals Paul's concern: would Jerusalem Christians, given tensions with him (cf. Acts 21:20-21), accept his gift? Rejection would undermine Jewish-Gentile unity he'd worked years to foster. Acceptance would validate Gentile mission and symbolize unity.

Historical Context

Both fears were realized in part. Acts 21:27-36 records his arrest by hostile Jews. Regarding acceptance, Acts 21:17-20a suggests the Jerusalem leaders received him gladly, implying the collection was delivered and accepted, though Luke doesn't explicitly mention it. Ironically, God 'delivered' Paul (v. 31a) through Roman arrest, protecting him from Jewish assassination plots (Acts 23:12-35).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's fear that his generous service might be rejected teach about the emotional and relational risks of Christian ministry?
2. What does Paul's request for deliverance from danger reveal about the legitimacy of praying for safety while still obeying costly callings?
3. Have you experienced offering service or generosity that risked rejection, and how did you navigate that vulnerability?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	ῥυθῶ	ἀπὸ	τοῖς	ἀπειθούντων	ἐν	τοῖς
That	I may be delivered	from	which	them that do not believe	in	which
G2443	G4506	G575	G3588	G544	G1722	G3588

Ἰουδαία	καὶ	ἵνα	τοῖς	διακονία	μου	τοῖς	εἰς
Judaea	and	That	which	service	my	which	I have for
G2449	G2532	G2443	G3588	G1248	G3450	G3588	G1519

Ἱερουσαλὴμ	εὐπρόσδεκτος	γένηται	τοῖς	ἀγίοις
Jerusalem	accepted	may be	which	of the saints
G2419	G2144	G1096	G3588	G40

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (Faith): And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

2 Corinthians 8:4 (Holy): Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Romans 15:25 (Holy): But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

2 Corinthians 9:1 (Holy): For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:

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