

Romans 15:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Analysis

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy (τὰ δὲ ἔθνη ὑπὲρ ἐλέους δοξάσαι τὸν θεόν, ta de ethnē hyper eleous doxasai ton theon)—Paul contrasts Christ's mission to Jews (v. 8: for God's truth/faithfulness in keeping promises) with his mission to Gentiles (for God's mercy in extending salvation beyond covenant people). Jews received covenant rights; Gentiles received sheer eleos (mercy)—undeserved, unexpected inclusion in Israel's Messiah and Israel's God. Both groups glorify God, but for different reasons: Jews for his faithfulness, Gentiles for his mercy.

As it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name—Paul begins a chain of four OT quotations (vv. 9-12) proving Gentile inclusion was always God's plan. This citation from Psalm 18:49 (2 Sam 22:50) shows David—Israel's anointed king, a type of Christ—praising God among the nations. Christ, David's greater Son, brings Gentiles into the worship of Israel's God. The Messiah's mission was always centrifugal: from Israel to the nations.

Historical Context

Psalm 18 is a royal psalm celebrating God's deliverance of David. In Second Temple Judaism, it was read messianically. Paul's interpretive move—seeing Christ as the 'I' who confesses God among Gentiles—reflects early Christian peshar

hermeneutics, reading Israel's Scriptures christologically. This validated Gentile mission as fulfilling, not contradicting, Scripture.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your salvation as sheer mercy (not covenant right) affect your gratitude and worship toward God?
2. What implications does Christ's mission to the Gentiles have for the church's evangelistic and missionary commitments today?
3. How can you 'confess God among the Gentiles' in your own context—glorifying God before those outside the faith?

Interlinear Text

τὰ G3588	δὲ G1161	ἔθνεσιν G1484	ὑπὲρ G5228	ἐλέους G1656	δοξάσαι G1392	τὸν G3588	θεόν G2316
	And	that the Gentiles	for	his mercy	might glorify		God
καθὼς G2531	γέγραπται G1125	Διὰ G1223	τοῦτο G5124	ἐξομολογήσομαί G1843	σοι G4671	ἐν G1722	
	as	it is written	For	this	I will confess	to thee	among
ἔθνεσιν G1484	καὶ G2532	τῷ G3588	ὀνόματί G3686	σου G4675	ψαλῶ G5567		
that the Gentiles	and		name	unto thy	sing		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 22:50 (Sin): Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

Psalms 18:49 (Sin): Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

Romans 3:29 (References God): Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Matthew 9:8 (References God): But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

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