

Romans 16:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.

Analysis

Salute Apelles approved in Christ—Aspasasthe Apellēn ton dokimon en Christō (ἀσπάσασθε Ἀπελλῆν τὸν δόκιμον ἐν Χριστῷ). Dokimon (δόκιμος, approved/tested) means proven genuine through trial—like refined metal passing assay (1 Peter 1:7). En Christō (in Christ) qualifies: he's proven faithful in Christ, not merely morally upright. This implies Apelles endured persecution, testing, or suffering that demonstrated genuine faith. Paul's commendation honors tested faithfulness—the church esteems those who've endured for Christ.

Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household—Aspasasthe tous ek tōn Aristoboulou (ἀσπάσασθε τοὺς ἐκ τῶν Ἀριστοβούλου). Ek tōn Aristoboulou (those of Aristobulus) likely means his household slaves/freedmen—Aristobulus himself may not be a believer. Josephus mentions an Aristobulus, grandson of Herod the Great, who lived in Rome and was close to Emperor Claudius. If this is the same person, Christians among his household servants were strategically positioned in Rome's elite circles.

Historical Context

Roman households (domus) included extended family, slaves, freedmen, clients—sometimes hundreds of people. Christianity spread through household conversions (Acts 16:15, 31-34; 1 Corinthians 1:16). Paul greets 'those of Aristobulus' household,' not Aristobulus himself, suggesting the master wasn't yet a believer but his servants were. This pattern repeats: servants and slaves often converted

before masters, creating complex dynamics. The gospel's appeal to lower classes was both its strength (rapid spread among marginalized) and weakness (criticized as religion of slaves and women by elites).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be '*dokimos en Christō*' (approved in Christ)—how is faithfulness tested and proven in your life?
2. How does greeting 'those of Aristobulus' household' (not Aristobulus) demonstrate the gospel's penetration into elite Roman households through servants?
3. What would it look like to honor and equip believers who are 'approved through testing' in your church community?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάσασθε	Ἀπελλῆν	τῶν	δόκιμον	ἐν	Χριστῷ	ἀσπάσασθε
Salute	Apelles	them	approved	in	Christ	Salute
G782	G559	G3588	G1384	G1722	G5547	G782
τῶν	ἐκ	τῶν	Ἀριστοβούλου			
them	which are of	them	Aristobulus			
G3588	G1537	G3588	G711			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:18 (References Christ): For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

1 Peter 1:7 (References Christ): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 11:19 (Parallel theme): For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

1 Timothy 3:10 (Parallel theme): And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

2 Corinthians 2:9 (Parallel theme): For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

2 Corinthians 8:22 (Parallel theme): And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

Philippians 2:22 (Parallel theme): But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

2 Timothy 4:19 (Parallel theme): Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.