

Romans 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Analysis

Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine—Aspasasthe Rhoupphon ton eklekton en kyriō kai tēn mētera autou kai emou (ἀσπάσασθε Ῥοῦφον τὸν ἐκλεκτὸν ἐν κυρίῳ καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἑμοῦ). Eklekton en kyriō (ἐκλεκτός ἐν κυρίῳ, chosen in the Lord) could mean 'excellent' or 'elect'—likely both. Rufus is distinguished, set apart for service. Mark 15:21 mentions 'Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus,' who carried Jesus' cross—possibly this same Rufus, suggesting his family knew Jesus personally and became early believers. Tēn mētera autou kai emou (his mother and mine) shows Paul's affection: Rufus' mother treated Paul maternally, perhaps hosting him, caring for him during ministry—creating spiritual family bond.

Historical Context

If this Rufus is Simon of Cyrene's son, his father carried Jesus' cross (Mark 15:21). That Mark mentions Alexander and Rufus by name (only in Mark's Gospel) suggests they were known to Mark's audience—early Roman Christians. Simon's family may have witnessed the crucifixion and resurrection, becoming foundational members of Jerusalem church before dispersing. Rufus' mother's hospitality to Paul exemplifies the church as family: spiritual bonds transcend biological kinship. Paul calls Timothy 'my son' (1 Timothy 1:2), Onesimus 'my son' (Philemon 10), and numerous older women 'mother' (1 Timothy 5:2).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be '*eklektos en kyriō*' (chosen in the Lord)—how does election produce distinction and service?
2. How does Paul's description of Rufus' mother as 'his and mine' model the church as spiritual family transcending biological ties?
3. Who are the spiritual 'mothers' and 'fathers' in your life—mentors, caregivers, encouragers—and how do you honor them?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάσασθε	‘Ροῦφον	τὸν	ἐκλεκτὸν	ἐν	κυρίῳ	καὶ	τὴν
Salute	Rufus	G3588	chosen	in	the Lord	and	G3588
G782	G4504		G1588	G1722	G2962	G2532	
μητέρα	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	ἐμοῦ				
mother	his	and	mine				
G3384	G846	G2532	G1700				

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:21 (Parallel theme): And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

1 Timothy 5:2 (Parallel theme): The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

2 John 1:1 (Parallel theme): The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

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