

# Romans 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

## Analysis

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**Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you**—Aspazetai hymas Timotheos ho synergos mou, kai Loukios kai Iasōn kai Sōsipatros hoi syngeneis mou (ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Τιμόθεος ὁ συνεργός μου, καὶ Λούκιος καὶ Ἰάσων καὶ Σωσίπατρος οἱ συγγενεῖς μου). Timothy is synergos (συνεργός, co-worker), Paul's closest associate (Philippians 2:20-22, 'no man likeminded'). Syngeneis (συγγενής, kinsmen) identifies Lucius, Jason, Sosipater as fellow Jews. Jason likely hosted Paul in Thessalonica, facing mob violence (Acts 17:5-9). Sosipater may be Sopater of Berea (Acts 20:4), Paul's travel companion.

## Historical Context

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Timothy was Paul's protégé—half-Jewish (Acts 16:1), circumcised to facilitate Jewish ministry (Acts 16:3), co-author of six epistles (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, Philemon), pastor of Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3), recipient of two pastoral letters. His mention here (with lesser-known co-workers) demonstrates Paul's team approach: apostolic ministry was collaborative, not solo. Jason's courage in Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-9—posting bond for Paul, risking his life) exemplifies the cost of hospitality to apostles. These 'workfellows' partnered in planting churches across the Roman world.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does Timothy's description as '*<em>synergos</em>*' (co-worker) rather than 'assistant' teach about mentoring and ministry partnership?
2. How do Jason's and Sosipater's roles (hosting, traveling, supporting) demonstrate that 'full-time ministry' isn't the only way to serve the gospel?
3. Who are your 'workfellows' (*<em>synergoi</em>*)—partners in gospel ministry—and how do you cultivate collaborative mission rather than solo heroism?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς Τιμόθεος ὁ συνεργός μου καὶ

**salute** **you** **Timotheus** G3588 **workfellow** **my** **and**  
G782 G5209 G5095 G4904 G3450 G2532

Λούκιος καὶ Ἰάσων καὶ Σωσίπατρος οἱ συγγενεῖς μου

**Lucius** **and** **Jason** **and** **Sosipater** G3588 **kinsmen** **my**  
G3066 G2532 G2394 G2532 G4989 G4773 G3450

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:4** (Parallel theme): And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

**Acts 13:1** (Parallel theme): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Acts 17:5** (Parallel theme): But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

**Romans 16:7** (Parallel theme): Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

**Romans 16:11** (Parallel theme): Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

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