

Romans 16:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

Analysis

I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord—Aspazomai hymas egō Tertios ho grapsas tēn epistolēn en kyriō (ἀσπάζομαι ὑμᾶς ἐγὼ Τέρτιος ὁ γράψας τὴν ἐπιστολὴν ἐν κυρίῳ). Ho grapsas (ὁ γράφω, the one writing) identifies Tertius as Paul's amanuensis (secretary). En kyriō (in the Lord) shows Tertius isn't mere scribe but fellow believer. Paul typically dictated letters (Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, Philemon mention dictation), signing them personally (Galatians 6:11, 'see what large letters'; 2 Thessalonians 3:17, 'the token in every epistle'). Tertius' greeting humanizes the text—this theological masterpiece passed through human hands, written painstakingly with stylus on papyrus.

Historical Context

Amanuenses (secretaries) were common in antiquity: educated slaves, freedmen, or hired professionals transcribed dictation. Paul likely couldn't write extensively due to poor eyesight (Galatians 4:15, 6:11) or manual labor damage to hands (tentmaking). Tertius' skill in Greek rhetoric and theology shows in Romans' literary quality—yet the content is Paul's (1:1, 'Paul...called an apostle'). This partnership between apostle and scribe mirrors the Spirit's inspiration through human authors: divine authority mediated through human personality. Tertius' brief greeting honors the 'invisible' laborers—scribes, copyists, messengers—who preserved and transmitted Scripture.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Tertius' inclusion ('I...wrote this epistle') teach about honoring support roles in ministry—those who serve behind the scenes?
2. How does recognizing human mediation (Paul dictated, Tertius wrote) affect your view of Scripture's inspiration and authority?
3. Who are the 'Tertius' figures in your ministry context—faithful servants whose work enables others' public ministry—and how can you honor them?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάζομαι ὑμᾶς ἐγὼ Τέρτιος ὁ γράψας τὴν ἐπιστολὴν
salute you I Tertius G3588 who wrote G3588 this epistle G1992
G782 G5209 G1473 G5060 G1125

ἐν κυρίῳ
in the Lord
G1722 G2962

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:11 (Parallel theme): Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.