

Romans 16:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you.
Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

Analysis

Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you—Aspazetai hymas Gaios ho xenos mou kai holēs tēs ekklēsias (ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Γάιος ὁ ξένος μου καὶ ὅλης τῆς ἐκκλησίας). Xenos (ξένος, host) means one who provides hospitality—Gaius hosted Paul and the Corinthian church in his home. Holēs tēs ekklēsias (ὅλης τῆς ἐκκλησίας, whole church) suggests Gaius' house was large enough for the entire congregation. This Gaius was one of few Paul baptized personally (1 Corinthians 1:14), indicating early convert and prominence.

Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother—Aspazetai hymas Erastos ho oikonomos tēs poleōs kai Kouartos ho adelphos (ἀσπάζεται ὑμᾶς Ἐραστος ὁ οἰκονόμος τῆς πόλεως καὶ Κούαρτος ὁ ἀδελφός). Oikonomos tēs poleōs (οἰκονόμος τῆς πόλεως, city treasurer) was high civic office—Erastus managed Corinth's finances. An inscription found in Corinth (1929) reads: 'Erastus, commissioner of public works, laid this pavement at his own expense'—likely this same Erastus. Quartus receives the simple designation ho adelphos (the brother)—probably humble background, yet equally honored.

Historical Context

Gaius' hospitality was crucial—early churches met in homes (no dedicated buildings until 3rd century). Hosting required space, resources, risk (illegal religion). Wealthier believers like Gaius, Philemon (Philemon 2, 'church in thy

house'), Lydia (Acts 16:15, 40) provided infrastructure. Erastus' position (city treasurer) shows Christianity penetrated Corinth's elite—not merely religion of slaves. Yet Paul mentions Quartus (common slave name meaning 'fourth') alongside Erastus—no social hierarchy in Christ. Acts 19:22 mentions an Erastus traveling with Timothy; 2 Timothy 4:20 mentions Erastus remaining in Corinth—possibly the same person.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Gaius' role as host 'of the whole church' model hospitality as essential ministry—not optional nicety but gospel service?
2. What does Erastus' high civic office (city treasurer) teach about Christians engaging culture, government, and professional life for God's glory?
3. How does mentioning Quartus (humble brother) alongside Erastus (city official) demonstrate the gospel's leveling effect—equal honor in Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάζεται	ὑμᾶς	Γάιος	ὁ	ξένος	μου	καὶ	τῆς
saluteth	you	Gaius	G3588	host	mine	and	G3588
G782	G5209	G1050		G3581	G3450	G2532	

ἐκκλησίας	ὅλης	ἀσπάζεται	ὑμᾶς	Ἐραστος	ὁ
church	of the whole	saluteth	you	Erastus	G3588
G1577	G3650	G782	G5209	G2037	

οἰκονόμος	τῆς	πόλεως	καὶ	Κούαρτος	ὁ	ἀδελφός
the chamberlain	G3588	of the city	and	Quartus	G3588	a brother
G3623		G4172	G2532	G2890		G80

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:22 (Parallel theme): So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

1 Corinthians 1:14 (Parallel theme): I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

2 Timothy 4:20 (Parallel theme): Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

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