

Romans 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Analysis

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not—Paul opens with solemn attestation (alētheian legō en Christō, ἀλήθειαν λέγω ἐν Χριστῷ), invoking Christ as witness to his truthfulness. **My conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost** adds triple testimony: his word, his conscience (syneidēsis, συνείδησις), and the Spirit's internal witness. This rhetorical intensity prepares for the shocking declaration to follow.

The phrase en Christō grounds Paul's oath not in himself but in union with Christ—he speaks as one who embodies Christ's own heart. The Holy Spirit's co-witnessing (symmartyrouseēs, συμμαρτυρούσης) establishes the divine authority of what follows. This is not mere human sentiment but Spirit-inspired truth about God's electing purposes.

Historical Context

Paul wrote Romans circa AD 57 from Corinth, addressing both Jewish and Gentile believers. Chapters 9-11 form a sustained theodicy defending God's faithfulness despite Israel's unbelief—a crisis threatening the gospel's credibility since salvation was 'to the Jew first.' Paul's credentials as a Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3:5) lend weight to his anguish.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul invoke such solemn triple attestation before revealing his grief over Israel?
2. How does speaking 'in Christ' transform the nature and authority of our words?
3. What does the Spirit's co-witnessing with our conscience teach about sanctification?

Interlinear Text

Ἄληθειαν λέγω ἐν Χριστῷ οὐ ψεύδομαι

the truth I say in Christ not I lie

G225

G3004

G1722

G5547

G3756

G5574

συμμαρτυρούσης μοι τῆς συνειδήσεώς μου ἐν πνεύματι

also bearing me conscience my in Ghost

G4828

G3427

G4893

G3450

G1722

G4151

ἅγιῷ

the Holy

G40

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 2:7 (Truth): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Romans 1:9 (Spirit): For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Galatians 1:20 (Parallel theme): Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

2 Corinthians 11:10 (Truth): As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

Romans 8:16 (Spirit): The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Philippians 1:8 (References Christ): For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:5 (Parallel theme): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2 Corinthians 1:12 (Witness): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

2 Corinthians 12:19 (References Christ): Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 (Witness): For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: