

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

Ἀλήθειαν	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	G3588	G4893	G3450	G1722	G4151
ἁγίῳ						
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: