

Word Study on “Administration” Ephesians

1. Transliteration:

In Ephesians, a single Greek word appears a few times. The Greek word is generally translates to mean “administration,” and the transliteration for the word is “oikonomia” (Strong, 1996).

2. With the Englishmen’s Concordance:

a. How many times is this Greek word used in the New Testament?

The Greek word “oikonomia” appears nine times in the New Testament (The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament, 1870).

b. How many times does Paul use it?

This word is used by Paul six out of the nine times in the New Testament in the books of 1 Timothy, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians (The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament, 1870).

c. Write down all the references in Ephesians that contain this word.

In Ephesians, Paul uses “oikonomia” three times (Ephesians 1:10, 3:2, and 3:9).

3. How is each usage translated in the NET Bible? Summarize the NET Bible note for “plan” in 3:9.

In Ephesians 1:10, “oikonomia” is translated as “administration.” In 3:2 the translators render it as “stewardship.” In 3:9 it is translated as “plan” in reference to God’s secret plan.

Additionally, in 3:9, the translator had earlier translated this Greek word, “oikonomia,” as “stewardship” (3:2), but in the given context here, speaking about the context of God’s secret oikonomia, it was translated as “plan.”

4. The semantic range:

The definitions listed for the semantic range are that it could be a task, “a job, implying need for administration.” It also may mean to manage a household, “administration of a household” (Strong, 1996).

5. Which definitions fit each occurrence of the word in Ephesians?

In Ephesians 1:10, it appears as though Paul is using the word in the context of the definition for a task, using “administering” as “putting to the task.” In 3:2, it seems that Paul is

referencing the definition of a task because he is talking about administering the gospel, or preaching it, which implies action. Finally, in 3:9, Paul is meaning an administration as in a plan, so he again means the definition of a task.

In all these meanings, Paul is not just saying, but commanding by God's authority that his recipients share the love of Christ. He is reiterating that God's message is for all to hear and accept.

6. Write an explanation of what Paul means by this word in Ephesians 1:10, 3:2 and 3:9.

Paul uses "oikonomia" in Ephesians 1:10 as a reference to what God's intent was ("put into effect" NIV) in completing his secret plan and taking our punishment that we might be forgiven. In 3:2, Paul's use of this word means that God is giving His grace freely and openly. In 3:9, Paul uses it in reference to God's secret oikonomia, "plan" being what the word is translated, meaning it is a task that God is planning to carry out.

7. How does this use relate to the major theme of Jew-Gentile relationships in Ephesians?

Specifically, Paul is commanding the Jews, with his "administrations," to reach the entire world, including the Gentiles (3:6). He is not just encouraging, but commanding that the gospel be preached to all, Jews and Gentiles alike, that we all may share in the unfathomable graces and riches of Jesus Christ (3:7).

Works Cited

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