

# 1 Timothy 5:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

## Analysis

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**Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment** (τινῶν ἀνθρώπων αἱ ἀμαρτίαι πρόδηλοι εἰσιν προάγουσαι εἰς κρίσιν, *tinōn anthrōpōn hai hamartiai prodēlooi eisin proagousai eis krisin*)—'the sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment.' *Prodēlos* means evident, obvious, manifest beforehand. Their sins are publicly visible, leading to clear judgment.

**And some men they follow after** (τισὶν δὲ καὶ ἐπακολουθοῦσιν, *tisin de kai epakolouthousin*)—'but the sins of others follow after.' Some people's sins are hidden initially but eventually come to light. The point: all sin will ultimately be judged—some immediately, some later.

This continues Paul's discussion of elder discipline (5:19-22). Some leaders' sins are obvious and easily addressed. Others are skilled at hiding sin, but it will eventually surface. Timothy shouldn't be discouraged if he cannot immediately discern every case—God sees all, and hidden sins eventually emerge. Patient, discerning leadership trusts God's ultimate justice.

## Historical Context

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In the Ephesian church context, some false teachers were openly heretical and easily identified. Others were subtle deceivers whose errors took time to expose. Paul encourages Timothy: you can't catch every case immediately, but persist

faithfully. Secret sins have a way of surfacing eventually. Final judgment will reveal all (1 Corinthians 4:5).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding that all sin will be judged (eventually) help leaders patiently pursue justice?
2. Why are some sins immediately obvious while others remain hidden for a time?
3. What comfort does this verse offer to those frustrated by apparent injustice in the church?

## Interlinear Text

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τισὶν ἀνθρώπων αἱ ἀμαρτίαι πρόδηλοί εἰσιν  
Some men's sins open beforehand are  
G5100 G444 G3588 G266 G4271 G1526

προάγουσαι εἰς κρίσιν τισὶν δὲ καὶ ἐπακολουθοῦσιν.  
going before to judgment Some and G2532 men they follow after  
G4254 G1519 G2920 G5100 G1161 G1872

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Timothy 4:10** (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

**Acts 8:18** (Parallel theme): And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.

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