

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

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment (τινῶν ἀνθρώπων αἱ ἁμαρτίαι πρόδηλοί εἰσιν προάγουσαι εἰς κρίσιν, tinōn anthrōpōn hai hamartiai prodēloi 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

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

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

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

τισὶν	ἀνθρώπων	αἱ	ἁμαρτίαι	πρόδηλοί	εἰσιν	
Some	men's	G3588	sins	open beforehand	are	
G5100	G444		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

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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