

1 Timothy 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

Analysis

Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand (ὡσαύτως καὶ τὰ ἔργα τὰ καλὰ πρόδηλά ἐστιν, *hōsautōs kai ta erga ta kala prodēla estin*)—'likewise the good works of some are clearly evident.' Just as some sins are immediately obvious (5:24), some good works are publicly manifest—easily recognized and honored. *Kalos* means good, beautiful, noble.

And they that are otherwise cannot be hid (καὶ τὰ ἄλλως ἔχοντα κρυβῆναι οὐ δύνανται, *kai ta allōs echonta krybēnai ou dynantai*)—'and those that are otherwise cannot remain hidden.' Good deeds done in secret will eventually be revealed. Just as hidden sins eventually surface, so do hidden good works.

This balances the warning of verse 24. Don't be discouraged if your faithful service goes unnoticed—God sees, and eventually others will too. Conversely, don't seek recognition—do good in secret, trusting God will reward appropriately (Matthew 6:4). The principle: ultimate reality will be revealed—evil will be exposed, good will be honored. Serve faithfully, trusting God's perfect justice.

Historical Context

Timothy's faithful ministry in Ephesus likely went unappreciated by many, while false teachers received attention and acclaim. Paul encourages him: your faithful service, though hidden now, cannot remain hidden forever. God sees, and ultimate

vindication is coming. Meanwhile, persist in quiet faithfulness without seeking recognition.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that hidden good works will be revealed encourage faithful service?
2. Why is it important to serve without demanding immediate recognition?
3. How do these verses (24-25) together encourage patient pursuit of holiness and justice?

Interlinear Text

ὡσαύτως	καὶ	τὰ	καλὰ	ἔργα	πρόδηλα	ἐστίν
Likewise	also	^{G3588}	the good	works	manifest beforehand	of some are
G5615	G2532		G2570	G2041	G4271	G2076
καὶ	τὰ	ἄλλως	ἔχοντα	κρυβῆναι	οὐ	δύναται
also	^{G3588}	otherwise	they that are	be hid	cannot	^{G1410}
G2532		G247	G2192	G2928	G3756	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:9 (Parallel theme): He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Luke 11:33 (Parallel theme): No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

