

1 Timothy 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou keep this commandment without spot,
unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Analysis

That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable (τηρῆσαι σε τὴν ἐντολὴν ἄσπιλον ἀνεπίλημπτον, *tērēsai se tēn entolēn aspilon anepilēmpton*) —'keep the commandment unstained, free from reproach.' *Aspilos* means spotless, without blemish. *Anepilēmtos* means blameless, irreproachable. *Entolē* (commandment) likely refers to Timothy's entire apostolic commission, not one specific command.

Until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (μέχρι τῆς ἐπιφανείας τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, *mechri tēs epiphaneias tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou*) —'until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.' *Epiphaneia* means appearing, manifestation—Christ's second coming. Timothy's charge extends to Christ's return. Remain faithful until the end, when Jesus appears to reward His servants.

Paul's charge is comprehensive and eschatological: fulfill your ministry faithfully and blamelessly until Jesus returns. The appearing of Christ is both motivation (He's coming!) and deadline (keep going until He arrives). Faithful endurance to the end brings reward.

Historical Context

Early Christians lived in eager expectation of Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This hope motivated faithful perseverance amid persecution and opposition. Paul charges Timothy to remain faithful until that day—maintaining

sound doctrine, godly character, and effective ministry regardless of how long the wait. The Lord is coming; be found faithful when He appears.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of Christ's return motivate faithful ministry in the present?
2. What does it mean to keep your calling 'without spot' and 'unrebukeable'?
3. How can we sustain faithfulness when Christ's return seems delayed?

Interlinear Text

τηρῆσαί	σε	τὴν	ἐντολὴν	ἄσπιλον	ἀνεπίληπτου		
keep	That thou	G3588	this commandment	without spot	unrebukeable		
G5083	G4571		G1785	G784	G423		
μέχρι	τῆς	ἐπιφανείας	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ
until	G3588	the appearing	G3588	Lord	of our	Jesus	Christ
G3360		G2015		G2962	G2257	G2424	G5547

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

1 Peter 1:7 (References Jesus): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (References Jesus): And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:28 (References Christ): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Titus 2:13 (References Jesus): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Hebrews 9:14 (References Christ): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Colossians 4:17 (References Lord): And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Colossians 1:22 (Parallel theme): In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprougeable in his sight: