

Philippians 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Analysis

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ (εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τὰ διαφέροντα, eis to dokimazein hymas ta diapheronta)—Dokimazein ("to test, approve after examination") is metallurgical language—testing ore for purity. Ta diapheronta can mean "things that differ" (distinguishing between options) or "things that excel" (choosing the best). Likely both: discerning differences and choosing what's superior, not merely permissible.

Sincere (εἰλικρινεῖς, eilikrineis) may derive from heilē ("sunlight") + krinō ("judge")—"judged in sunlight," tested by full exposure, free from hidden flaws. **Without offence** (ἀπρόσκοποι, aproskopoi) means not causing others to stumble or oneself remaining unstumbled. **Till the day of Christ** (εἰς ἡμέραν Χριστοῦ, eis hēmeran Christou) again orients toward eschatological accountability—moral integrity maintained until Christ's return.

Historical Context

The metaphor of testing metals by sunlight or fire was common in ancient commerce and philosophy. Plato used eilikrinēs for philosophical purity. Paul applies it to ethical living under Christ's coming scrutiny. 'Day of Christ' language pervades Philippians (1:6, 10; 2:16), reflecting early Christian eschatological urgency and accountability to the returning Judge.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you test decisions to 'approve things that are excellent' rather than merely acceptable?
2. What areas of your life might not survive scrutiny 'in the sunlight' of full exposure?
3. How does living toward 'the day of Christ' change your ethical calculus in daily decisions?

Interlinear Text

εἰς	τὸ	δοκιμάζειν	ὑμᾶς	τὰ	διαφέροντα	ἵνα
That	G3588	may approve	ye	G3588	things that are excellent	that
G1519		G1381	G5209		G1308	G2443
ἦτε	εἰλικρινεῖς	καὶ	ἀπόσκοποι	εἰς	ἡμέραν	Χριστοῦ
ye may be	sincere	and	without offence	That	the day	of Christ
G5600	G1506	G2532	G677	G1519	G2250	G5547

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:2 (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (References Christ): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (References Christ): 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.

Romans 2:18 (Parallel theme): And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

Ephesians 5:10 (Parallel theme): Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

1 John 4:1 (Parallel theme): Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (Parallel theme): Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1 Corinthians 1:8 (References Christ): Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 (References Christ): Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 5:27 (Parallel theme): That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.