**Sins and Good Works – Now and Later**

*1 Timothy 5:24-25*

**Introduction**

1. **1 Timothy 5:24-25** – Some men’s sins/good works are evident now, but some men’s sins/good works are not. Those whose sins/good works are unnoticed now will have them noticed in the end.
2. **Context – Instruction for Timothy concerning appointing elders:**
   1. **(vv. 17-18)** – Honor elders.
   2. **(vv. 19-20)** – Elders who are sinning – rebuke. (receive accusations only from 2 or 3 witnesses)
   3. **(v. 21)** – Concerning appointing elders, and instructions that follow, show no partiality.
   4. **(v. 22)** – Don’t be hasty to appoint men to the eldership.
      1. **It is a serious matter, and demands great thought and attention.**
      2. Don’t share in sins – appointing those not qualified, or showing partiality.
   5. **(v. 23)** – Such work is strenuous, and you (Timothy) need to take care of your health.
   6. **(vv. 24-25)** – Concerning those you would consider appointing to the office of elder:
      1. **Take time** – sin unobservable now may become manifest later through time; same with good works. (*Through time, and God’s providence, character is further developed and manifested*.)
      2. **Take caution in such appointments!**
3. **General truth – applies to everyone, as well as elders. 🡪**
4. Sins **(v. 24)**
5. Now
   1. **Evident** – observable, known, in the public eye.
      1. **Galatians 5:19-21** – Lusts of the flesh.
         1. Clearly evident – known and easily identified.
         2. **Those who do so openly clearly seen as men who live for the flesh.**
         3. **(v. 21)** – It can be easily known where these are headed if they do not repent.
      2. **Philippians 3:18-19** – Some live a brazen lifestyle of sin – they glory in their shame.
         1. Christians must separate themselves from such people.
         2. **Such people are headed for destruction.**
   2. **Otherwise** – private, less-known, unknown.
      1. **Proverbs 28:13** – Hiding sin does not lead to prospering.
      2. **Psalm 69:5** – David understood his sins were not hidden to God.
6. Later – Evident (before God)
   1. **Hebrews 4:11-13** – We will be judged in the end by God’s word.
      1. God’s word cuts through any façade, and manifests the true character.
      2. **(v. 13)** – You cannot hide from God.
   2. **Revelation 20:11-15** – The book of life will be opened, and men will be judged.
   3. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – Instead of hiding sins we must fear God, because even secret things will be judged.
7. Good Works **(v. 25)**
8. Now
   1. **Evident** – observable, known, in the public eye; **Otherwise** – private, less-known, unknown.
      1. **Ephesians 2:10** – All Christians are created for good works. (*Whether well known by others or not, we are expected to be given to them*.)
      2. **Matthew 6:1-6** – Either way, we are not to do our good works to be seen by men.
         1. **We do these things because it is our duty before God.**
         2. We wish to be pleasing to God, not men.
      3. **1 Corinthians 12:20-25** – Concerning the body of Christ – regarding spiritual gifts.
         1. Some regarded some spiritual gifts (tongues) greater/more important than others.
         2. For this reason, others who had different gifts were less esteemed than tongue speakers.
         3. Paul shows that those who have other gifts are highly important, and should be recognized as such.
         4. **APPLICATION: Some in the church do good works, but are more in the background than others. (These are still highly important, and many times the most important!)**
   2. We should not do good works to be seen by men, but God. **Sometimes one’s good works are evident, but there are those whose good works are less recognized** *(whether that is honestly overlooked, or unjustly ignored).* Either way 🡪
9. Later – Evident (before God)
   1. **Regardless of whether good works are noticed by others now, they will be noticed, and rewarded by God later.**
   2. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-4** – Paul noticed, and prayed for, the Thessalonians in their labor for the Lord.
      1. The most important thing was that God noticed.
      2. **All good works are done *“in the sight of our God and Father.”* HE SEES!**
   3. **Matthew 25:34-40** – Jesus speaking about judgment day – those on the right (sheep).
      1. The good deeds done to brethren may have gone unnoticed by many.
      2. **However, as they were done to the brethren, they were done to Jesus, and He remembered and rewarded.**
   4. **Hebrews 6:9-12** – Encouragement from the Hebrew writer to his audience.
      1. Had been speaking of apostasy, and warning the brethren about it.
      2. **(v. 9)** – However, he is confident they will respond properly.
      3. **(v. 10) – God had not forgotten their good deeds done in the past.**
         1. They had done these things, and shown good character in so doing.
         2. **Also, these things were still recognized by God, and they needed to not throw them away.**
      4. **(vv. 11-12)** – Encouragement to turn from their sluggishness back to their diligence, for God notices, and will reward in the end.
   5. ***“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men” (Titus 3:8).***
   6. ***“…and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:4).***

**Conclusion**

1. All must understand that everything we do, ultimately is done before God – whether good or bad.
2. Our evil may be overlooked by men in this life, or done in secret – God knows and will reward accordingly.
3. Our good may be overlooked by men in this life, or done in secret – God knows and will reward accordingly.
4. **We must avoid evil, even in private circumstances, and do good to be seen by God!**
5. **Galatians 6:7-10 – Either way, we must remember God is not mocked. Our good will be rewarded, and evil will be punished.**