

Acts 8:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Analysis

Peter declares Simon has 'neither part nor lot in this matter' - excluding him from participation in apostolic ministry and implicitly from salvation itself. His heart is 'not right in the sight of God' - the decisive issue is internal heart condition, not external profession or baptism. Reformed theology emphasizes that God searches the heart (Jeremiah 17:10); outward religious actions mean nothing if the heart remains unregenerate. Simon's crooked heart sought to use God's gifts for self-exaltation rather than submitting to God's lordship.

Historical Context

The phrase 'part nor lot' echoes Old Testament covenant language (Deuteronomy 12:12, Joshua 22:25) indicating exclusion from covenant community. Peter discerned that Simon's baptism and profession were external only - his heart never changed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we examine our hearts to ensure they are 'right in the sight of God'?
2. What is the relationship between outward profession and inward heart reality?
3. Why is heart transformation essential to genuine Christianity?

Interlinear Text

οὐκ	ἔστιν	σοι	μερίς	οὐδὲ	κληῖρος	ἐν	τῷ	λόγῳ
neither	hast	Thou	part	nor	lot	in	G3588	matter
G3756	G2076	G4671	G3310	G3761	G2819	G1722		G3056
τούτῳ	ἡ	γὰρ	καρδία	σου	οὐκ	ἔστιν	εὐθεΐα	ἐνώπιον
this	G3588	for	heart	thy	neither	hast	right	in the sight
G5129		G1063	G2588	G4675	G3756	G2076	G2117	G1799
τοῦ	θεοῦ							
G3588	of God							
	G2316							

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

John 21:17 (Parallel theme): He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Revelation 22:19 (References God): And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Psalms 36:1 (References God): The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Revelation 20:6 (References God): Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Joshua 22:25 (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the LORD: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the LORD.

Habakkuk 2:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

2 Chronicles 25:2 (Parallel theme): And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.