

James 5:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Analysis

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. Whoever turns a sinner from error saves a soul from death and covers a multitude of sins. Restoration is lifesaving work. Love covers sins by leading people to repentance.

Reformed mission prioritizes reclaiming wanderers through gospel truth and grace.

Historical Context

Early churches faced threats from persecution and false doctrine. James ends with a communal charge: seek the erring. This echoes Proverbs 10:12 and 1 Peter 4:8 regarding love covering sins.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What role can you play in restoring a wanderer?
2. How does this verse motivate evangelism and church discipline?
3. Who can partner with you in pursuing the straying?

Interlinear Text

γινωσκέτω ὅτι ὁ ἐπιστρέψας ἀμαρτωλὸν ἐκ πλάνης
Let that G3588 he which converteth the sinner from the error
G1097 G3754 G1994 G268 G1537 G4106

ὁδοῦ αὐτοῦ σώσει ψυχὴν ἐκ θανάτου καὶ καλύψει
way him shall save a soul from death and shall hide
G3598 G846 G4982 G5590 G1537 G2288 G2532 G2572

πλῆθος ἀμαρτιῶν
a multitude of sins
G4128 G266

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 4:8 (Sin): And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Proverbs 10:12 (Sin): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

1 Timothy 4:16 (Salvation): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Proverbs 11:30 (Parallel theme): The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Romans 11:14 (Salvation): If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (Salvation): To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

James 5:19 (Parallel theme): Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

James 1:15 (Sin): Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Psalms 32:1 (Sin): Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Proverbs 11:4 (Parallel theme): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

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