

Job 33:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

Analysis

Elihu describes the repentant sinner's confession: "He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not." The verb chata (אָפָּת, "sinned") means to miss the mark. The verb avah (אָפָּת, "perverted") means to bend or distort. The final phrase "it profited me not" (lo-shavah li, לֹא־שָׁבָה לִי) acknowledges sin's ultimate futility. Elihu outlines the components of genuine repentance:

1. admission of sin
2. recognition of moral corruption
3. acknowledgment of sin's unprofitability.

From a Reformed perspective, this maps onto the doctrine of repentance requiring both confession and forsaking sin (Proverbs 28:13). The phrase "it profited me not" echoes Jesus' question: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). True repentance recognizes sin's false promises and empty returns.

Historical Context

Confession and repentance were central to Israelite covenant relationship with God. The temple sacrificial system required confession accompanying offerings (Leviticus 5:5). Elihu's description reflects this covenantal theology. However, his implication that Job needs to make such confession misreads Job's situation—Job's suffering isn't punishment requiring repentance but testing requiring patience.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What are the essential components of genuine biblical repentance?
2. How does recognizing sin's unprofitability motivate turning from it?
3. What is the difference between repentance that God requires and the false repentance Job's friends demand?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּרְא	אָנָשִׁים	וְאִמְרָה	בְּטָאתִי	וְשֶׁ	רִight
He looketh	H5921	upon men	and if any say	I have sinned	that which was right
H7789		H582	H559	H2398	H3477
וְשֶׁ	בָּטָא	תִּהְיֶה	לִי		
and perverted	H3808	and it profited	H0		
H5753		H7737			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 6:21 (Parallel theme): What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

2 Samuel 12:13 (Sin): And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

Psalms 14:2 (Parallel theme): The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

Romans 7:22 (Parallel theme): For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

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