

# Job 34:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good.

## Analysis

---

Elihu invites collaboration: "Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good." The verb *bachar* (בָּחַר, "choose") means to select or decide. The noun *mishpat* (מִשְׁפָּט, "judgment") refers to justice or the right course. The verb *yada* (יָדָע, "know") means to discern or understand. Elihu proposes corporate discernment—together determining truth. From a Reformed perspective, this models ecclesial decision-making: believers reasoning together under Scripture's authority. Acts 15 demonstrates apostolic practice of corporate deliberation. Yet Elihu's proposal also reveals presumption: humans cannot independently "choose" justice—it must be revealed by God. The difference between Elihu's approach and the Jerusalem Council is Scripture's role: Acts 15 discerned God's will through prophetic word, not mere consensus. Wisdom requires both community and submission to divine revelation.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Israel's elders made corporate decisions at city gates (Deuteronomy 21:19). Wisdom literature valued consultation (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22). However, true discernment required Torah as standard (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). Elihu's proposal reflects cultural practice but lacks explicit grounding in divine revelation—a weakness God's speeches will remedy by divine self-disclosure.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does corporate discernment in the church relate to Scripture's authority?
2. What is the proper relationship between community wisdom and divine revelation in theological decision-making?
3. How can we avoid Elihu's presumption that we can independently determine what is good?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִשְׁפָּט	נִבְחָרָה	לָנוּ	נִדְעָה	בֵּינָנוּ	מָה
to us judgment	Let us choose	H0	let us know	H996	H4100
H4941	H977		H3045		

טוֹב:

among ourselves what is good

H2896

## Additional Cross-References

---

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