

Proverbs 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Analysis

Wisdom's indictment: 'But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof.' 'Set at nought' (Hebrew: para, reject, ignore) indicates willful disregard. The comprehensive 'all my counsel' shows total rejection, not merely selective listening. 'Would none' emphasizes volitional refusal—they could have received correction but chose not to. This describes the natural man's hostility to divine wisdom (1 Cor. 2:14). Apart from grace, humans reject God's counsel, preferring autonomous wisdom.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom traditions valued counsel and reproof from sages and elders. Proverbs repeatedly emphasizes receiving instruction and correction. Rejecting wise counsel was considered foolish and dangerous. Solomon's indictment assumes hearers had access to truth but spurned it. This pattern recurs in prophetic literature—Israel had God's law but disobeyed. Judgment follows rejected counsel.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the comprehensive rejection of 'all counsel' demonstrate total depravity's extent—not partial but complete resistance to God's truth?
2. What does refusal of reproof teach us about pride being the root of rejecting correction?

Interlinear Text

ל	א	! תֹּכְחַת	!	עַצָּת	כָּל	וְמִפְרָע	וְ
But ye have set at nought	H3605	all my counsel		none of my reproof	H3808		

אֲבִיתָם:

and would

H14

Additional Cross-References

Psalm 81:11 (Parallel theme): But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

Luke 7:30 (Parallel theme): But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Proverbs 12:1 (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

Proverbs 1:30 (Parallel theme): They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Psalms 107:11 (Parallel theme): Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

Proverbs 5:12 (Parallel theme): And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

2 Chronicles 36:16 (Parallel theme): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

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