

# Proverbs 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found:  
but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

## Analysis

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In the lips of him that has understanding wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him void of understanding. Understanding produces wise speech; lack of understanding requires corporal discipline. The rod isn't arbitrary punishment but pedagogy for those who won't learn through instruction. This reflects ancient pedagogy using physical discipline. The principle: wisdom is better acquired through understanding than through painful consequences.

## Historical Context

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Corporal punishment was standard pedagogy in ancient world. The verse doesn't mandate physical discipline but observes that those who won't learn through instruction learn through consequences.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Are you learning wisdom through understanding or requiring painful 'rod' of consequences?

2. How does God discipline you when you resist learning through His Word?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּשֶׁפֶת	בְּ	תִּמְצָא	שְׁבָט
In the lips	of him that hath understanding	is found	wisdom
H8193	H995	H4672	H2451
לְבָטָה	לְבָטָה	לְבָטָה	לְבָטָה
is for the back	of him that is void	of understanding	but a rod
H1460	H2638	H3820	H7626

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 26:3** (Parallel theme): A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

**Proverbs 6:32** (Parallel theme): But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

**Isaiah 50:4** (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

**Psalms 32:9** (Parallel theme): Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

**Proverbs 10:21** (Parallel theme): The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

**Proverbs 17:10** (Parallel theme): A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

**Proverbs 15:23** (Parallel theme): A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

**Proverbs 27:22** (Parallel theme): Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

**Proverbs 10:31** (Parallel theme): The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

**Proverbs 20:15** (Parallel theme): There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

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