

# 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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בְּשִׁפְתַּי י'	נָ בֹוֹן	תִּמְצֵ א	חִכְמָה	שֶׁ בֶט
In the lips	of him that hath understanding	is found	wisdom	but a rod
H8193	H995	H4672	H2451	H7626
לֵג ו	חִסֵּר	לֵב:		
is for the back	of him that is void	of understanding		
H1460	H2638	H3820		

## 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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