

# Proverbs 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

## Analysis

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A man shall be commended according to his wisdom, but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised. Public estimation follows character - wisdom brings commendation (halal - praise, glory); perverse heart brings contempt. This verse presents reputation as reflecting reality - wise persons deserve and receive praise; perverse persons deserve and receive contempt. Genuine character eventually produces corresponding reputation.

## Historical Context

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Reflects covenant community where character eventually produced fitting reputation. While temporary discrepancies occurred, wisdom ultimately brought honor and perverseness brought shame.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. Does your reputation reflect wisdom or perverseness?
2. How can you pursue wisdom that merits genuine commendation rather than mere image management?

## Interlinear Text

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|           |               |                    |         |                              |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| לְפִי     | שֶׁ כָּלוּ    | יִהְיֶה            | אִישׁ   | וְנַעֲוֶה                    |
| according | to his wisdom | shall be commended | A man   | but he that is of a perverse |
| H6310     | H7922         | H1984              | H376    | H5753                        |
| בְּ       | לֵב הַ        | יִהְיֶה            | לְבוֹז: |                              |
| heart     | H1961         | shall be despised  |         |                              |
| H3820     |               | H937               |         |                              |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 12:23** (Parallel theme): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**Psalms 132:18** (Parallel theme): His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

**Proverbs 5:23** (Parallel theme): He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

**Proverbs 1:26** (Parallel theme): I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

**Proverbs 3:35** (Parallel theme): The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** (Parallel theme): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

**2 Corinthians 10:18** (Parallel theme): For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

**Genesis 41:39** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

**Luke 16:8** (Parallel theme): And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

**Daniel 12:2** (Parallel theme): And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

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