

Proverbs 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction:
but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

Analysis

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction, but he that regards reproof shall be honored. Rejecting teaching brings both material want and social disgrace. Heeding correction brings honor. This verse links intellectual humility with practical outcomes - teachability leads to flourishing; unteachability leads to ruin. The contrast emphasizes that consequences follow character - proud resistance produces shame; humble receptivity produces honor.

Historical Context

Reflects wisdom tradition where receiving instruction enabled prosperity while rejecting it caused failure. Ancient apprenticeship systems made this principle observable - teachable learners advanced; resistant ones failed.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What poverty and shame have resulted from your refusal of instruction?

2. How has regarding reproof brought honor you wouldn't otherwise have received?

Interlinear Text

רֵשׁ	אֶל קָלֹן	פֹּה עַ	מוֹסֵר	אִשִּׁי רַ
Poverty	and shame	shall be to him that refuseth	instruction	but he that regardeth
H7389	H7036	H6544	H4148	H8104
תוֹכַחַת	אֶכְבֹּד:			
reproof	shall be honoured			
H8433	H3513			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:5 (Parallel theme): A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

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

Proverbs 25:12 (Parallel theme): As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

Proverbs 13:13 (Parallel theme): Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Proverbs 9:9 (Parallel theme): Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 19:6 (Parallel theme): Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Psalms 141:5 (Parallel theme): Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.

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