

Proverbs 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Analysis

The 'lips of the wise disperse knowledge,' but 'the heart of the foolish doeth not so.' Hebrew 'zarah' (disperse/scatter) suggests generosity and wide distribution, like a farmer sowing seed. The wise don't hoard knowledge but share it liberally. Meanwhile, fools lack the knowledge to disperse and the generosity to share what they have. Reformed theology values the teaching office and the responsibility of those who know truth to instruct others. Knowledge is not for personal elevation but for building up the body of Christ and blessing others.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, wisdom was passed down orally from elders to youth. Those who possessed knowledge had a sacred responsibility to teach the next generation (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Are you generous in sharing the biblical knowledge and wisdom you've gained?
2. What opportunities do you have to 'disperse' knowledge to those who lack it?
3. How does viewing knowledge as a gift to be shared rather than hoarded change your approach to learning?

Interlinear Text

שִׁפְתֵי י	חַ כְּמִים	יֵצֵא רֹ	דַּ עֵת	וְלֵב	חֲסִיל יִם	לֹא
The lips	of the wise	disperse	knowledge	but the heart	of the foolish	H3808
H8193	H2450	H2219	H1847	H3820	H3684	

קֹל:
H3651

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:34 (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.