

Proverbs 18:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Analysis

The fool 'hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.' The Hebrew 'galah' (discover/reveal) means to uncover or expose. Fools don't seek truth but use conversation to showcase themselves. This describes prideful speech focused on self-promotion rather than learning. Reformed theology values humility and teachability. The wise person listens to understand; the fool talks to be admired. This reflects the difference between Spirit-wrought humility and flesh-driven pride. Genuine wisdom begins with recognizing our ignorance and need for instruction.

Historical Context

In ancient wisdom literature, the student's posture was listening and receiving instruction from elders. The fool who prioritized self-expression over learning was excluded from wisdom's benefits.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In conversations, are you genuinely seeking to understand or merely waiting to speak?
2. How can you cultivate greater humility and teachability in learning from others?
3. What does it reveal about your heart when you prioritize self-expression over understanding?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יְחִיף יְלִיכָה בְּתִבְוֹן הַסִּיל בְּהַתְגִּל וְתַאֲמִן כִּי אַמְּדָבָן
H3808 **hath no delight** H2654 **A fool** H3684 **in understanding** H8394 H3588 H518 **may discover** H1540

לֹא
but that his heart

H3820

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:23 (Parallel theme): A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Proverbs 1:7 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 13:16 (Parallel theme): Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

Proverbs 17:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

Ecclesiastes 10:3 (Parallel theme): Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

1 Corinthians 8:1 (Parallel theme): Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

