

Proverbs 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Analysis

Integrity in poverty surpasses perverse speech in folly, even if accompanied by wealth. The 'better than' construction again prioritizes character over circumstances. Walking uprightly maintains God's favor regardless of economic status, while moral compromise brings shame despite material success.

Historical Context

Ancient society highly valued wealth and status, yet biblical wisdom consistently subverts this value system. The righteous poor are commended above wealthy fools throughout Scripture.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain integrity when financial pressures tempt compromise?
2. Would you rather be poor with a clear conscience or wealthy with a guilty one?

Interlinear Text

מְעִיל שֶׁ	בַּתְּמַמָּה וְ	הַוְלֵךְ בְּשֶׁ	בְּשֶׁ	בְּשֶׁ
than he that is perverse	in his integrity	that walketh	is the poor	Better
H6141	H8537	H1980	H7326	H2896
כַּסְיָיל:	וְאֵשׁ פָּתַח יְהוָה	שֶׁ	וְאֵשׁ	מְעִיל:
and is a fool	in his lips	H3684	H1931	H8193

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:6 (Parallel theme): Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 16:8 (Parallel theme): Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Proverbs 15:16 (Parallel theme): Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 20:7 (Parallel theme): The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 14:2 (Parallel theme): He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Proverbs 19:22 (Parallel theme): The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?