

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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טוֹב	כִּשׁ	הוֹלֵךְ	בְּתִמּוֹ	מֵעַקֵּשׁ
Better	is the poor	that walketh	in his integrity	than he that is perverse
H2896	H7326	H1980	H8537	H6141
וּ	וְהָיָה	כִּי־יִשְׁכַּח	אֶת־פִּי־וָאֵל	וְהָיָה
in his lips	H1931	and is a fool		
H8193		H3684		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?