

Proverbs 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Analysis

The result of divine provision: 'Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.' The 'then' indicates consequence—after receiving and heeding wisdom, understanding follows. This isn't mere intellectual knowledge but experiential comprehension of righteousness (right standing), judgment (justice), and equity (fairness). The comprehensive 'every good path' shows complete moral discernment. This demonstrates illumination: the Holy Spirit enables believers to understand and walk in truth. Saving faith produces moral comprehension.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom tradition distinguished between knowing facts and understanding principles. True wisdom wasn't academic but practical—enabling right living. The triad of righteousness, judgment, and equity summarizes comprehensive ethical living, reflecting God's character. This understanding wasn't natural human capacity but divinely granted through engagement with God's revealed wisdom in Scripture and creation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the sequence—receiving wisdom, then understanding—challenge modern assumptions that intellectual knowledge alone suffices?
2. What does understanding 'every good path' teach us about sanctification producing comprehensive moral discernment, not merely selective obedience?

Interlinear Text

אָ	תָּבִין	צַדִּיק	וּמִשְׁפָּט	וּמִיֶּשֶׁר יָם	כָּל
H227	Then shalt thou understand	righteousness	and judgment	and equity	H3605
	H995	H6664	H4941	H4339	
מַעַגַּל	טוֹב:				
path	yea every good				
H4570	H2896				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:16 (Good): Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Isaiah 48:17 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.