

Proverbs 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Analysis

This verse establishes a hierarchy of value: gold and rubies represent material wealth, but 'lips of knowledge' surpass both as 'precious jewels.' Wisdom spoken and shared has eternal value far exceeding earthly treasures. Knowledge here means not mere information but godly wisdom applied to life. The lips that speak truth, counsel wisely, and impart understanding are more valuable than any material possession. This reflects God's value system where spiritual realities trump physical ones. The gospel itself is the supreme 'knowledge'—understanding Christ and His salvation. Those who proclaim and teach biblical truth possess wealth that neither rusts nor fades.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures highly prized gold and precious stones, making them natural symbols of great value. Solomon's comparison would have shocked hearers by elevating wisdom above what they considered most precious.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you treasure wise counsel and biblical teaching above material possessions?
2. How are you using your words—to pursue wisdom or waste breath on folly?

Interlinear Text

שׁ	יְהִי	וְרַב	פְּנִינִים	וְכָל	קָרָא	שִׁפְתַּי
There is	gold	and a multitude	of rubies	jewel	are a precious	but the lips
H3426	H2091	H7230	H6443	H3627	H3366	H8193
דַּעַת:						
of knowledge						
H1847						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 25:12 (Parallel theme): As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

Proverbs 8:11 (Parallel theme): For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 16:24 (Parallel theme): Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:7 (Parallel theme): The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

Proverbs 16:16 (Parallel theme): How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!