

Proverbs 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Analysis

This repeats 16:2's warning against self-deception. Human self-justification is unreliable—only God's evaluation matters. The heart's weighing reveals motives hidden from external observers and even from ourselves. We need divine illumination to see ourselves truly.

Historical Context

Judges weighed evidence to determine justice. God's perfect weighing of hearts ensures no hidden sin escapes notice, no sincere intention goes unrewarded.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you combat the tendency to judge yourself by intentions while judging others by actions?
2. What does God's weighing reveal about your heart's true state?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	דֶּרֶךְ	אֵשׁ	יָשָׁר	בְּעֵינָיו	וְתִכַּן	לֵב
H3605	Every way	of a man	is right	in his own eyes	pondereth	the hearts
	H1870	H376	H3477	H5869	H8505	H3826
יְהוָה:						
but the LORD						
H3068						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:2 (References Lord): All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

Proverbs 16:25 (Parallel theme): There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Luke 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Jeremiah 17:10 (References Lord): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Proverbs 30:12 (Parallel theme): There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

1 Samuel 16:7 (References Lord): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Proverbs 24:12 (Parallel theme): If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Psalms 36:2 (Parallel theme): For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

James 1:22 (Parallel theme): But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Galatians 6:3 (Parallel theme): For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

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