

Proverbs 28:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Analysis

Evil people 'understand not judgment,' but those seeking the Lord 'understand all things.' The Hebrew 'biyn mishpat' (understand judgment/justice) is impossible for the wicked. Spiritual blindness prevents moral understanding. Meanwhile, those who seek Yahweh gain comprehensive understanding. This doesn't mean omniscience but wisdom to discern right from wrong. Reformed theology affirms that natural man cannot understand spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14). Only the Spirit opens eyes to truth. Seeking God is prerequisite to understanding His justice.

Historical Context

Israel's wicked kings couldn't understand justice despite access to God's law (Jeremiah 5:4-5). Understanding required more than information; it required heart transformation through seeking God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How has seeking God increased your understanding of justice and righteousness?
2. In what areas do you lack understanding that could come from more earnestly seeking the Lord?
3. What is the relationship between spiritual seeking and moral discernment?

Interlinear Text

אֲנָשִׁי	כָּע	לֹא	יָבִינֹו	מִשְׁפָּט	וּמְבַקְשֵׁי	יְהוָה
men	Evil	H3808	understand	not judgment	but they that seek	the LORD
H582	H7451		H995	H4941	H1245	H3068
יָבִינֹו		כָּל:				
understand	H3605					
H995						

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Psalms 92:6 (Parallel theme): A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

1 John 2:20 (Parallel theme): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

John 7:17 (Parallel theme): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

