### Proverbs

## Chapter 18

1Those making excuses are rejected by friends,  
 And they’ll always be spoken of poorly.  
  
2Those lacking good sense have no use for wisdom;  
 For, by what’s foolish, they wish to be led.  
  
3When the irreverent reach the depths of their evil,  
 They don’t notice that they’re scorned and dishonored.  
  
4A word that touches the heart  
 Is like very deep water…  
 Like a river or a life-giving spring.  
  
5It’s evil to favor the wicked,  
 And unholy to deny justice to the righteous.  
  
6A fool’s lips will lead him towards bad,  
 And the boldness of his mouth beckons his death.  
  
7The mouth of a fool will destroy him,  
 For his lips are snares to his own soul.  
  
8The lazy are easily frightened,  
 And timid souls will go hungry.  
  
9A man who won’t work for himself  
 Is a brother to the one who brings himself ruin.  
  
10In the Name of the Lord there’s power…  
 It’s where the righteous can turn for their strength.  
  
11The wealth of the rich is a fortified town,  
 And its glory casts a long shadow.  
  
12Before his ruin, a man’s heart is proud,  
 And just before glory, it’s humbled.  
  
13When a man replies before hearing,  
 It’s foolish and it brings him much scorn.  
  
14A man can endure a [long] illness;  
 But, who can endure a spirit that’s worried?  
  
15The hearts of the smart gain perception  
 And the ears of the wise search for insight.  
  
16When a man brings a gift, he makes friends,  
 And he will sit beside rulers.  
  
17Before speaking, the righteous examine themselves;  
 For they know that they’ll be reproved  
 By those who don’t agree.  
  
18Choosing by lottery ends a dispute  
 And it defines the boundaries of rulers.  
  
19A brother who’s helped by his brothers  
 Is like a high city with fortified walls,  
 And a castle that’s well-built and strong.  
  
20From the fruits of his mouth, a man’s belly is filled…  
 From the fruits of his lips, he will get what he needs.  
  
21The handle of the tongue carries both life and death,  
 And those who fail to restrain it  
 Will end up eating its fruitage.  
  
22The man who’s found a good woman  
 Has done himself a great favor…  
 Joy from Jehovah is what he’s received.  
  
The man who sends a good woman away  
 Doesn’t recognize things that have value;  
 But the one who keeps an adulteress  
 Is a foolish and irreverent man.  
  
23Although those in need make many requests,  
 The rich will respond very harshly.  
  
24A man should seek many friendships,  
 For some friends will stick closer than brothers.