

**3** Let not mercy and truth leave thee, put them about thy neck, and write them in the tables of thy heart.

**4** And thou shalt find grace, and good understanding before God and men.

**5** Have confidence in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thy own prudence.

**6** In all thy ways think on him, and he will direct thy steps.

**7** Be not wise in thy own conceit: fear God, and depart from evil:

**8** For it shall be health to thy navel, and moistening to thy bones.

**9** Honour the Lord with thy substance, and give him of the first of all thy fruits;

**10** And thy barns shall be filled with abundance, and thy presses shall run over with wine.

**11** My son, reject not the correction of the Lord: and do not faint when thou art chastised by him:

**12** For whom the Lord loveth, he chastiseth: and as a father in the son he pleaseth himself.

**13** Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and is rich in prudence:

**14** The purchasing thereof is better than the merchandise of silver, and her fruit than the chief and purest gold:

**15** She is more precious than all riches: and all the things that are desired, are not to be compared to her.

**16** Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and glory.

**17** Her ways are beautiful ways, and all her paths are peaceable.

**18** She is a tree of life to them that lay hold on her: and he that shall retain her is blessed.

**19** The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth, hath established the heavens by prudence.

**20** By his wisdom the depths have broken out, and the clouds grow thick with dew.

**21** My son, let not these things depart from thy eyes: keep the law and counsel:

**22** And there shall be life to thy soul, and grace to thy mouth.

**23** Then shalt thou walk confidently in thy way, and thy foot shall not stumble:

**24** If thou sleep, thou shalt not fear: thou shalt rest, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

**25** Be not afraid of sudden fear, nor of the power of the wicked falling upon thee.

**26** For the Lord will be at thy side, and will keep thy foot that thou be not taken.

**27** Do not withhold him from doing good, who is able: if thou art able, do good thyself also.

**28** Say not to thy friend: Go, and come again: and to morrow I will give to thee: when thou canst give at present.

**29** Practise not evil against thy friend, when he hath confidence in thee.

**30** Strive not against a man without cause, when he hath done thee no evil.

**31** Envy not the unjust man, and do not follow his ways.

**32** For every mocker is an abomination to the Lord, and his communication is with the simple.

**33** Want is from the Lord in the house of the wicked: but the habitations of the just shall be blessed.

**34** He shall scorn the scorers, and to the meek he will give grace.

**35** The wise shall possess glory: the promotion of fools is disgrace.

## Chapter 4

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend, that you may know prudence.

**2** I will give you a good gift, forsake not my law.

**3** For I also was my father's son, tender, and as an only son in the sight of my mother:

**4** And he taught me, and said: Let thy heart receive my words, keep my commandments, and thou shalt live.

**5** Get wisdom, get prudence: forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth.

**6** Forsake her not, and she shall keep thee: love her, and she shall preserve thee.

**7** The beginning of wisdom, get wisdom, and with all thy possession purchase prudence.

**8** Take hold on her, and she shall exalt thee: thou shalt be glorified by her, when thou shalt embrace her.

**9** She shall give to thy head increase of graces, and protect thee with a noble crown.

**10** Hear, O my son, and receive my words, that years of life may be multiplied to thee.

**11** I will shew thee the way of wisdom, I will lead thee by the paths of equity:

**12** Which when thou shalt have entered, thy steps shall not be straitened, and when thou runnest, thou shalt not meet a stumblingblock.

**13** Take hold on instruction, leave it not: keep it, because it is thy life.

**14** Be not delighted in the paths of the wicked, neither let the way of evil men please thee.

**15** Flee from it, pass not by it: go aside, and forsake it.

**16** For they sleep not, except they have done evil: and their sleep is taken away unless they have made some to fall.

**17** They eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of iniquity.

**18** But the path of the just, as a shining light, goeth forwards, and increaseth even to perfect day.

**19** The way of the wicked is darksome: they know not where they fall.

**20** My son, hearken to my words, and incline thy ear to my sayings.

**21** Let them not depart from thy eyes, keep them in the midst of thy heart:

**22** For they are life to those that find them, and health to all flesh.

**23** With all watchfulness keep thy heart, because life issueth out from it.

**24** Remove from thee a froward mouth, and let detracting lips be far from thee.

**25** Let thy eyes look straight on, and let thy eyelids go before thy steps.

**26** Make straight the path for thy feet, and all thy ways shall be established.

**27** Decline not to the right hand, nor to the left: turn away thy foot from evil. For the Lord knoweth the ways that are on the right hand: but those are perverse which are on the left hand. But he will make thy courses straight, he will bring forward thy ways in peace.

## Chapter 5

My son, attend to my wisdom, and incline thy ear to my prudence,

**2** That thou mayst keep thoughts, and thy lips may preserve instruction. Mind not the deceit of a woman.

**3** For the lips of a harlot are like a honeycomb dropping, and her throat is smoother than oil.

**4** But her end is bitter as wormwood, and sharp as a two-edged sword.

**5** Her feet go down into death, and her steps go in as far as hell.

**6** They walk not by the path of life, her steps are wandering, and unaccountable.

**7** Now, therefore, my son, hear me, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

**8** Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the doors of her house.

**9** Give not thy honour to strangers, and thy years to the cruel.

**10** Lest strangers be filled with thy strength, and thy labours be in another man's house,

**11** And thou mourn at the last, when thou shalt have spent thy flesh and thy body, and say;

**12** Why have I hated instruction, and my heart consented not to reproof,

**13** And have not heard the voice of them that taught me, and have not inclined my ear to masters?

**14** I have almost been in all evil, in the midst of the church and of the congregation.

**15** Drink water out of thy own cistern, and the streams of thy own well:

**16** Let thy fountains be conveyed abroad, and in the streets divide thy waters.

**17** Keep them to thyself alone, neither let strangers be partakers with thee.

**18** Let thy vein be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of thy youth:

**19** Let her be thy dearest hind, and most agreeable fawn: let her breasts inebriate thee at all times: be thou delighted continually with her love.

**20** Why art thou seduced, my son, by a strange woman, and art cherished in the bosom of another?

**21** The Lord beholdeth the ways of man, and considereth all his steps.

**22** His own iniquities catch the wicked, and he is fast bound with the ropes of his own sins.

**23** He shall die, because he hath not received instruction, and in the multitude of his folly he shall be deceived.

## Chapter 6

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, thou hast engaged fast thy hand to a stranger,

**2** Thou art ensnared with the words of thy mouth, and caught with thy own words.

**3** Do, therefore, my son, what I say, and deliver thyself: because thou art fallen into the hand of thy neighbour. Run about, make haste, stir up thy friend:

**4** Give not sleep to thy eyes, neither let thy eyelids slumber.

**5** Deliver thyself as a doe from the hand, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

**6** Go to the ant, O sluggard, and consider her ways, and learn wisdom:

**7** Which, although she hath no guide, nor master, nor captain,

**8** Provideth her meat for herself in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

**9** How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

**10** Thou wilt sleep a little, thou wilt slumber a little, thou wilt fold thy hands a little to sleep:

**11** And want shall come upon thee, as a traveller, and poverty as a man armed. But if thou be diligent, thy harvest shall come as a fountain, and want shall flee far from thee.

**12** A man that is an apostate, an unprofitable man, walketh with a perverse mouth,

**13** He winketh with the eyes, presseth with the foot, speaketh with the finger.

**14** With a wicked heart he deviseth evil, and at all times he soweth discord.

**15** To such a one his destruction shall presently come, and he shall suddenly be destroyed, and shall no longer have any remedy.

**16** Six things there are, which the Lord hateth, and the seventh his soul detesteth: