

**7** What is man, and what is his grace? and what is his good, or what is his evil?

**8** The number of the days of men at the most are a hundred years, as a drop of water of the sea are they esteemed: and as a pebble of the sand, so are a few years compared to eternity.

**9** Therefore God is patient in them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them.

**10** He hath seen the presumption of their heart that it is wicked, and hath known their end that it is evil.

**11** Therefore hath he filled up his mercy in their favour, and hath shewn them the way of justice.

**12** The compassion of man is toward his neighbour: but the mercy of God is upon all flesh.

**13** He hath mercy, and teacheth, and correcteth, as a shepherd doth his flock.

**14** He hath mercy on him that receiveth the discipline of mercy, and that maketh haste in his judgments.

**15** My son, in thy good deeds, make no complaint, and when thou givest any thing, add not grief by an evil word.

**16** Shall not the dew assuage the heat? so also the good word is better than the gift.

**17** Lo, is not a word better than a gift? but both are with a justified man.

**18** A fool will upbraid bitterly: and a gift of one ill taught consumeth the eyes.

**19** Before judgment prepare thee justice, and learn before thou speak.

**20** Before sickness take a medicine, and before judgment examine thyself, and thou shalt find mercy in the sight of God.

**21** Humble thyself before thou art sick, and in the time of sickness shew thy conversation.

**22** Let nothing hinder thee from praying always, and be not afraid to be justified even to death: for the reward of God continueth for ever.

**23** Before prayer prepare thy soul: and be not as a man that tempteth God.

**24** Remember the wrath that shall be at the last day, and the time of repaying when he shall turn away his face.

**25** Remember poverty in the time of abundance, and the necessities of poverty in the day of riches.

**26** From the morning until the evening the time shall be changed, and all these are swift in the eyes of God.

**27** A wise man will fear in every thing, and in the days of sins will beware of sloth.

**28** Every man of understanding knoweth wisdom, and will give praise to him that findeth her.

**29** They that were of good understanding in words, have also done wisely themselves: and have understood truth and justice, and have poured forth proverbs and judgments.

**30** Go not after thy lusts, but turn away from thy own will.

**31** If thou give to thy soul her desires, she will make thee a joy to thy enemies.

**32** Take no pleasure in riotous assemblies, be they ever so small: for their concertation is continual.

**33** Make not thyself poor by borrowing to contribute to feasts when thou hast nothing in thy purse: for thou shalt be an enemy to thy own life.

## Chapter 19

A workman that is a drunkard shall not be rich: and he that contemneth small things, shall fall by little and little.

**2** Wine and women make wise men fall off, and shall rebuke the prudent:

**3** And he that joineth himself to harlots, will be wicked. Rottenness and worms shall inherit him, and he shall be lifted up for a greater example, and his soul shall be taken away out of the number.

**4** He that is hasty to give credit, is light of heart, and shall be lessened: and he that sinneth against his own soul, shall be despised.

**5** He that rejoiceth in iniquity, shall be censured, and he that hateth chastisement, shall have less life: and he that hateth babbling, extinguisheth evil.

**6** He that sinneth against his own soul, shall repent: and he that is delighted with wickedness, shall be condemned.

**7** Rehearse not again a wicked and harsh word, and thou shalt not fare the worse.

**8** Tell not thy mind to friend or foe: and if there be a sin with thee, disclose it not.

**9** For he will hearken to thee, and will watch thee, and as it were defending thy sin he will hate thee, and so will he be with thee always.

**10** Hast thou heard a word against thy neighbour? let it die within thee, trusting that it will not burst thee.

**11** At the hearing of a word the fool is in travail, as a woman groaning in the bringing forth a child.

**12** As an arrow that sticketh in a man's thigh: so is a word in the heart of a fool.

**13** Reprove a friend, lest he may not have understood, and say: I did it not: or if he did it, that he may do it no more.

**14** Reprove thy neighbour, for it may be he hath not said it: and if he hath said it, that he may not say it again.

**15** Admonish thy friend: for there is often a fault committed.

**16** And believe not every word. There is one, that slippeth with the tongue, but not from his

heart.

**17** For who is there that hath not offended with his tongue? Admonish thy neighbour before thou threaten him.

**18** And give place to the fear of the most High: for the fear of God is all wisdom, and therein is to fear God, and the disposition of the law is in all wisdom.

**19** But the learning of wickedness is not wisdom: and the device of sinners is not prudence.

**20** There is a subtle wickedness, and the same is detestable: and there is a man that is foolish, wanting in wisdom.

**21** Better is a man that hath less wisdom, and wanteth understanding, with the fear of God, than he that aboundeth in understanding, and transgresseth the law of the most High.

**22** There is an exquisite subtilty, and the same is unjust.

**23** And there is one that uttereth an exact word telling the truth. There is one that humbleth himself wickedly, and his interior is full of deceit:

**24** And there is one that submitteth himself exceedingly with a great lowliness: and there is one that casteth down his countenance, and maketh as if he did not see that which is unknown:

**25** And if he be hindered from sinning for want of power, if he shall find opportunity to do evil, he will do it.

**26** A man is known by his look, and a wise man, when thou meetest him, is known by his countenance.

**27** The attire of the body, and the laughter of the teeth, and the gait of the man, shew what he is.

**28** There is a lying rebuke in the anger of an injurious man: and there is a judgment that is

not allowed to be good: and there is one that holdeth his peace, he is wise.

## Chapter 20

How much better is it to reprove, than to be angry, and not to hinder him that confesseth in prayer.

**2** The lust of an eunuch shall deflour a young maiden:

**3** So is he that by violence executeth of the unwise.

**4** How good is it, when thou art reproved, to shew repentance! for so thou shalt escape wilful sin.

**5** There is one that holdeth his peace, that is found wise: and there is another that is hateful, that is bold in speech.

**6** There is one that holdeth his peace, because he knoweth not what to say: and there is another that holdeth his peace, knowing the proper time.

**7** A wise man will hold his peace till he see opportunity: but a babler, and a fool, will regard no time.

**8** He that useth many words shall hurt his own soul: and he that taketh authority to himself unjustly shall be hated.

**9** There is success in evil things to a man without discipline, and there is a finding that turneth to loss.

**10** There is a gift that is not profitable: and there is a gift, the recompense of which is double.

**11** There is an abasement because of glory: and there is one that shall lift up his head from a low estate.

**12** There is that buyeth much for a small price, and restoreth the same sevenfold.

**13** A man wise in words shall make himself beloved: but the graces of fools shall be poured

out.

**14** The gift of the fool shall do thee no good: for his eyes are sevenfold.

**15** He will give a few things, and upbraid much: and the opening of his mouth is the kindling of a fire.

**16** To day a man lendeth, and to morrow he asketh it again: such a man as this is hateful.

**17** A fool shall have no friend, and there shall be no thanks for his good deeds.

**18** For they that eat his bread, are of a false tongue. How often, and how many will laugh him to scorn!

**19** For he doth not distribute with right understanding that which was to be had: in like manner also that which was not to be had.

**20** The slipping of a false tongue is as one that falleth on the pavement: so the fall of the wicked shall come speedily.

**21** A man without grace is as a vain fable, it shall be continually in the mouth of the unwise.

**22** A parable coming out of a fool's mouth shall be rejected: for he doth not speak it in due season.

**23** There is that is hindered from sinning through want, and in his rest he shall be pricked.

**24** There is that will destroy his own soul through shamefacedness, and by occasion of an unwise person he will destroy it: and by respect of person he will destroy himself.

**25** There is that for bashfulness promiseth to his friend, and maketh him his enemy for nothing.

**26** A lie is a foul blot in a man, and yet it will be continually in the mouth of men without discipline.

**27** A thief is better than a man that is always lying: but both of them shall inherit destruction.

**28** The manners of lying men are without honour: and their confusion is with them without