**CHAPTER** **18**

*God’s works are wonderful: we must serve him, and not our lusts.*

**1** He that liveth for ever created all things together. God only shall be justified, and he remaineth an invincible king for ever.

**2** Who is able to declare his works?

**3** For who shall search out his glorious acts?

**4** And who shall show forth the power of his majesty? or who shall be able to declare his mercy?

**5** Nothing may be taken away, nor added, neither is it possible to find out the glorious works of God.

**6** When a man hath done, then shall he begin: and when he leaveth off, he shall be at a loss.

**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.