**CHAPTER** **2**

*The advantages of wisdom: and the evils from which it delivers.*

**1** My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and wilt hide my commandments with thee,

**2** That thy ear may hearken to wisdom: incline thy heart to know prudence:

**3** For if thou shalt call for wisdom, and incline thy heart to prudence:

**4** If thou shalt seek her as money, and shalt dig for her as for a treasure:

**5** Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and shalt find the knowledge of God.

**6** Because the Lord giveth wisdom: and out of his mouth cometh prudence and knowledge.

**7** He will keep the salvation of the righteous, and protect them that walk in simplicity.

**8** Keeping the paths of justice, and guarding the ways of saints.

**9** Then shalt thou understand justice, and judgment, and equity, and every good path.

**10** If wisdom shall enter into thy heart, and knowledge please thy soul:

**11** Counsel shall keep thee, and prudence shall preserve thee,

**12** That thou mayst be delivered from the evil way, and from the man that speaketh perverse things:

**13** Who leave the right way, and walk by dark ways:

**14** Who are glad when they have done evil, and rejoice in most wicked things:

**15** Whose ways are perverse, and their steps infamous.

**16** That thou mayst be delivered from the strange women, and from the stranger, who softeneth her words:

**17** And forsaketh the guide of her youth,

**18** And hath forgotten the covenant of her God: for her house inclineth unto death, and her paths to hell.

**19** None that go in unto her shall return again, neither shall they take hold of the paths of life,

**20** That thou mayst walk in a good way: and mayst keep the paths of the just.

**21** For they that are upright shall dwell in the earth, and the simple shall continue in it.

**22** But the wicked shall be destroyed from the earth: and they that do unjustly shall be taken away from it.