**CHAPTER** **3**

*An exhortation to the practice of virtue.*

**1** My son, forget not my law, and let thy heart keep my commandments.

**2** For they shall add to thee length of days, and years of life and peace.

**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 chiefest and purest gold:

**15** She is more precious than all riches: and all the things that are desired, are not to be compared with 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 scorners, and to the meek he will give grace.

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