**CHAPTER** **7**

*The love of wisdom is the best preservatives from being led astray by temptation.*

**1** My son, keep my words, and lay up my precepts with thee. Son,

**2** Keep my commandments, and thou shalt live: and my law as the apple of thy eye:

**3** Bind it upon thy fingers, write it upon the tables of thy heart.

**4** Say to wisdom: Thou art my sister: and call prudence thy friend,

**5** That she may keep thee from the woman that is not thine, and from the stranger who sweeteneth her words.

**6** For I look out of the window of my house through the lattice,

**7** And I see little ones, I behold a foolish young man,

**8** Who passeth through the street by the corner, and goeth nigh the way of her house.

**9** In the dark, when it grows late, in the darkness and obscurity of the night,

**10** And behold a woman meeteth him in harlot’s attire prepared to deceive souls; talkative and wandering,

**11** Not bearing to be quiet, not able to abide still at home,

**12** Now abroad, now in the streets, now lying in wait near the corners.

**13** And catching the young man, she kisseth him, and with an impudent face, flattereth, saying:

**14** I vowed victims for prosperity, this day I have paid my vows.

**15** Therefore I am come out to meet thee, desirous to see thee, and I have found thee.

**16** I have woven my bed with cords, I have covered it with painted tapestry, brought from Egypt.

**17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

**18** Come, let us be inebriated with the breasts, and let us enjoy the desired embraces, till the day appear.

**19** For my husband is not at home, he is gone a very long journey.

**20** He took with him a bag of money: he will return home the day of the full moon.

**21** She entangled him with many words, and drew him away with the flattery of her lips.

**22** Immediately he followeth her as an ox led to be a victim, and as a lamb playing the wanton, and not knowing that he is drawn like a fool to bonds,

**23** Till the arrow pierce his liver: as if a bird should make haste to the snare, and knoweth not that his life is in danger.

**24** Now therefore, my son, hear me, and attend to the words of my mouth.

**25** Let not thy mind be drawn away in her ways: neither be thou deceived with her paths.

**26** For she hath cast down many wounded, and the strongest have been slain by her.

**27** Her house is the way to hell, reaching even to the inner chambers of death.