**CHAPTER** **16**

**1** It is the part of man to prepare the soul: and of the Lord to govern the tongue.

**2** All the ways of a man are open to his eyes: the Lord is the weigher of spirits.

**3** Lay open thy works to the Lord: and thy thoughts shall be directed.

**4** The Lord hath made all things for himself: the wicked also for the evil day.

**5** Every proud man is an abomination to the Lord: though hand should be joined to hand, he is not innocent. The beginning of a good way is to do justice; and this is more acceptable with God, than to offer sacrifices.

**6** By mercy and truth iniquity is redeemed: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

**7** When the ways of man shall please the Lord, he will convert even his enemies to peace.

**8** Better is a little with justice, than great revenues with iniquity.

**9** The heart of man disposeth his way: but the Lord must direct his steps.

**10** Divination is in the lips of the king, his mouth shall not err in judgment.

**11** Weight and balance are judgments of the Lord: and his work all the weights of the bag.

**12** They that act wickedly are abominable to the king: for the throne is established by justice.

**13** Just lips are the delight of kings: he that speaketh right things shall be loved.

**14** The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: and the wise man will pacify it.

**15** In the cheerfulness of the king’s countenance is life: and his clemency is like the latter rain.

**16** Get wisdom, because it is better than gold: and purchase prudence, for it is more precious than silver.

**17** The path of the just departeth from evils: he that keepeth his soul keepeth his way.

**18** Pride goeth before destruction: and the spirit is lifted up before a fall.

**19** It is better to be humbled with the meek, than to divide spoils with the proud.

**20** The learned in word shall find good things: and he that trusteth in the Lord is blessed.

**21** The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and he that is sweet in words shall attain to greater things.

**22** Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth it: the instruction of fools is foolishness.

**23** The heart of the wise shall instruct his mouth: and shall add grace to his lips.

**24** Well ordered words are as a honeycomb: sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**25** There is a way that seemeth to a man right: and the ends thereof lead to death.

**26** The soul of him that laboureth, laboureth for himself, because his mouth hath obliged him to it.

**27** The wicked man diggeth evil, and in his lips is a burning fire.

**28** A perverse man stirreth up quarrels: and one full of words separateth princes.

**29** An unjust man allureth his friend: and leadeth him into a way that is not good.

**30** He that with fixed eyes deviseth wicked things, biting his lips, bringeth evil to pass.

**31** Old age is a crown of dignity, when it is found in the ways of justice.

**32** The patient man is better than the valiant: and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh cities.

**33** Lots are cast into the lap, but they are disposed of by the Lord.