**CHAPTER** **4**

*A further exhortation to seek after wisdom.*

**1** Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend that you may know prudence.

**2** I will give you a good gift, forsake not my law.

**3** For I also was my father’s son, tender and as an only son in the sight of my mother:

**4** And he taught me, and said: Let thy heart receive my words, keep my commandments, and thou shalt live.

**5** Get wisdom, get prudence: forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth.

**6** Forsake her not, and she shall keep thee: love her, and she shall preserve thee.

**7** The beginning of wisdom, get wisdom, and with all thy possession purchase prudence.

**8** Take hold on her, and she shall exalt thee: thou shalt be glorified by her, when thou shalt embrace her.

**9** She shall give to thy head increase of graces, and protect thee with a noble crown.

**10** Hear, O my son, and receive my words, that years of life may be multiplied to thee.

**11** I will shew thee the way of wisdom, I will lead thee by the paths of equity:

**12** Which when thou shalt have entered, thy steps shall not be straitened, and when thou runnest thou shalt not meet a stumblingblock.

**13** Take hold on instruction, leave it not: keep it, because it is thy life.

**14** Be not delighted in the paths of the wicked, neither let the way of evil men please thee.

**15** Flee from it, pass not by it: go aside, and forsake it.

**16** For they sleep not except they have done evil: and their sleep is taken away unless they have made some to fall.

**17** They eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of iniquity.

**18** But the path of the just, as a shining light, goeth forwards and increaseth even to perfect day.

**19** The way of the wicked is darksome: they know not where they fall.

**20** My son, hearken to my words, and incline thy ear to my sayings.

**21** Let them not depart from thy eyes, keep them in the midst of thy heart:

**22** For they are life to those that find them, and health to all flesh.

**23** With all watchfulness keep thy heart, because life issueth out from it.

**24** Remove from thee a froward mouth, and let detracting lips be far from thee.

**25** Let thy eyes look straight on, and let thy eyelids go before thy steps.

**26** Make straight the path for thy feet, and all thy ways shall be established.

**27** Decline not to the right hand, nor to the left: turn away thy foot from evil. For the Lord knoweth the ways that are on the right hand: but those are perverse which are on the left hand. But he will make thy courses straight, he will bring forward thy ways in peace.