**CHAPTER** **8**

*The preaching of wisdom. Her excellence.*

**1** Doth not wisdom cry aloud, and prudence put forth her voice?

**2** Standing in the top of the highest places by the way, in the midst of the paths,

**3** Beside the gates of the city, in the very doors she speaketh, saying:

**4** O ye men, to you I call, and my voice is to the sons of men.

**5** O little ones, understand subtilty, and ye unwise, take notice.

**6** Hear, for I will speak of great things: and my lips shall be opened to preach right things.

**7** My mouth shall meditate truth, and my lips shall hate wickedness.

**8** All my words are just, there is nothing wicked nor perverse in them.

**9** They are right to them that understand, and just to them that find knowledge.

**10** Receive my instruction, and not money: choose knowledge rather than gold.

**11** For wisdom is better than all the most precious things: and whatsoever may be desired cannot be compared to it.

**12** I wisdom dwell in counsel, and am present in learned thoughts.

**13** The fear of the Lord hateth evil: I hate arrogance, and pride, and every wicked way, and a mouth with a double tongue.

**14** Counsel and equity is mine, prudence is mine, strength is mine.

**15** By me kings reign, and lawgivers decree just things,

**16** By me princes rule, and the mighty decree justice.

**17** I love them that love me: and they that in the morning early watch for me, shall find me.

**18** With me are riches and glory, glorious riches and justice.

**19** For my fruit is better than gold and the precious stone, and my blossoms than choice silver.

**20** I walk in the way of justice, in the midst of the paths of judgment,

**21** That I may enrich them that love me, and may fill their treasures.

**22** The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his ways, before he made any thing from the beginning.

**23** I was set up from eternity, and of old before the earth was made.

**24** The depths were not as yet, and I was already conceived, neither had the fountains of waters as yet sprung out:

**25** The mountains with their huge bulk had not as yet been established: before the hills I was brought forth:

**26** He had not yet made the earth, nor the rivers, nor the poles of the world.

**27** When he prepared the heavens, I was present: when with a certain law and compass he enclosed the depths:

**28** When he established the sky above, and poised the fountains of waters:

**29** When he compassed the sea with its bounds, and set a law to the waters that they should not pass their limits: when he balanced the foundations of the earth;

**30** I was with him forming all things: and was delighted every day, playing before him at all times;

**31** Playing in the world: and my delights were to be with the children of men.

**32** Now therefore, ye children, hear me: Blessed are they that keep my ways.

**33** Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not.

**34** Blessed is the man that heareth me, and that watcheth daily at my gates, and waiteth at the posts of my doors.

**35** He that shall find me, shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord:

**36** But he that shall sin against me, shall hurt his own soul. All that hate me love death.