

Chapter 03

Wifdom exhorteth to kepe Gods law (geuing long life) to obferue mercie, and truth: 5. to confide in God: 7. to feare: 9. and honour him: 11. to take his correction gladly (13. for al good thinges folow wifdom) 27. to releue the needie without delay: 30. not to contend with the wicked, nor to imitate them. 33. The euil shal faile, and the godlie shal profper.

My fonne, ^{a)}forget not my law, and let thy ^{b)}hart keepe my precepts. ² For they shal adde to thee length of dayes, and yeares of life, and peace. ³ Let not ^{c)}mercie and truth leaue thee, put them about thy throte; and write them in the tables of thy hart: ⁴ and thou shalt finde grace, and good difcipline before God and men. ⁵ ^{d)}Haue confidence in our Lord with al thy hart, and leane not vpon thyne owne prudence. ⁶ In al thy wayes thinke on him, and he wil direct thy fteppes. ⁷ Be not wife in thyne owne concepte: feare God, and depart from euil: ⁸ for it shal be health to thy nauil, and watering of thy bones. ⁹ Honour our Lord with thy fubftance, and geue to him of the firft of al thy fruites: ¹⁰ and thy barnes shal be replenished with fulnes, and thy preffes shal run ouer with wine. ¹¹ My fonne, caft not away the difcipline of our Lord: neither doe thou faint when thou art chafticed of him: ¹² ^{e)}For whom our Lord loueth he chafticeth: and as a father in the fonne he pleafeth himfelf. ¹³ Bleffed is the man that findeth wifdom, and floweth with prudence:

^a It auaieth litle to heare good instructions, except we kepe them in memorie,

^b not in books only but in the hart:

^c and put them in execution.

^d Knowv alfo that al thy ftreingth is in God, in whom thou maift fecurely truft, not in thyn ovne prudence.

^e Chaftifment and tribulation in thofe that endeouour to ferue God, is a figne of his fauour tovwards them; and therfore his other promifes vvhich feme to be temporal, are to be vnderftood of the next life.

¹⁴ better is the purchafing therof then marchandife of
 filuer, and her fruite then chiefe and the pureft gold:
¹⁵ she is more precious then al riches: and al thinges
 that are defired, are not able to be compared with her.
¹⁶ ^{a)}Length of dayes in her right hand, & in her left hand
^{b)}riches and glorie. ¹⁷ Her wayes are beautiful wayes, and
 al her pathes peaceable. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to them
 that shal apprehend her: and he that shal hold her is
 bleffed. ¹⁹ Our Lord by wifdom founded the earth, eftab-
 lished the heauens by prudence. ²⁰ By his wifdom the
 depthes haue broken forth, and the cloudes waxe thicke
 with dew. ²¹ My fonne, let not thefe thinges depart from
 thyne eies: kepe the law & counfel: ²² and there shal be
 life to thy foule, and ^{c)}grace to thy iawes. ²³ Then shalt
 thou walke confidently in thy way, and thy foote shal
 not ftumble: ²⁴ if thou fleepe, thou shalt not feare: thou
 shalt reft, and thy fleepe shal be fweete. ²⁵ Dread not at
 foden terrour, and the power of the impious falling vpon
 thee. ²⁶ For our Lord wil be at thy fide, and wil keepe
 thy foote that thou be not taken. ²⁷ Doe not prohibite
 him to doe good, that is able: if thou be able, thy felfe
 alfo doe good. ²⁸ Say not to thy frend: Goe, and returne;
 and ^{d)}tomorow I wil geue to thee: wheras thou mayeft
 geue forthwith. ²⁹ Practife not euil againft thy freind,
 when he hath affiance in thee. ³⁰ Contend not againft
 man without caufe, wheras he hath done thee no euil.
³¹ Doe not enuie an vniuft man, nor imitate his waies:
³² becaufe euerie deluder is an abomination of our Lord,
 and his communication is with the fimple. ³³ There is
 pouertie from our Lord in the houle of the impious: but
 the habitations of the iuft shal be bleffed. ³⁴ He shal
 delude the deluders, and to the milde he wil geue grace.
³⁵ The wife shal poffeffe glorie: the exaltation of fooles
 ignominie.

^a God revvardeth as it vv ere vvith both handes promifing eternal life,

^b and competent meanes in this life.

^c Merite for the wordes of thy mouth.

^d Almes in feafon is duple vvorth to that vvwhich is differred long.