

Chapter 04

The wifeman exhorteth others by his owne example to seeke wifdom, 14. to decline from the wicked, and to imitate the iust, 23. to guide wel the hart, mouth, and feete.

Children heare ye the fathers difcipline, and attend that you may knowe prudence. ² I wil geue you a good gift, forfake not my law. ³ For ^aI alfo was the fonne of my father, tender and as onlie begotten in my mothers fight: ⁴ and he taught me, & fayd: Let thy hart receiue my wordes, kepe my preceptes, and thou shalt liue. ⁵ Poffeffe wifedom, poffeffe prudence: forget not, neither decline from the wordes of my mouth. ⁶ Leaue her not, and she wil keepe thee: loue her, and she wil preferue thee. ⁷ ^bThe beginning of wifdom, poffeffe wifdom, and in al thy poffeffion purchafe prudence: ⁸ take quickly, and she wil exalt thee: thou shalt be glorified of her, when thou shalt embrace her. ⁹ She wil geue to thy head increafe of graces, and with a noble crowne she wil protect thee. ¹⁰ Heare my fonne, and receiue my wordes, that yeares of life may be multiplied to thee. ¹¹ The way of wifdom I wil shew to thee, I wil leade thee by the pathes of equitie. ¹² Which when thou shalt haue entered, thy fteppes shal not be ftraytened, and running thou shalt not haue a ftumbling blocke. ¹³ Hold difcipline, leaue it not: kepe it, becaufe the fame is thy life. ¹⁴ Be not delighted in the pathes of the impious, neither let the way of the euil pleafe thee. ¹⁵ Flee from it, neither paffe thou by it: goe afide, and forfake it. ¹⁶ For they fleepe not vnleffe they haue done il: and they take no fleepe vnleffe they fupplant. ¹⁷ They

^a As Salomon was instructed by his father king Daudid fo he teacheth others, the right order hovve to lerne vvifdom.

^b The first part of wifdom is to defire it. For nothing hindereth from being iust but that iustice is not defired. *S. Aug. in Pfal. 118. v. 20.*

eate the bread of impietie, and drinke the wine of iniquitie. ¹⁸ But the path of the iuft, as shyning light proceedeth euen to perfect day. ¹⁹ The way of the impious is darkefom: they know not where they fal. ²⁰ My fonne, heare my wordes, and incline thyne eare to my fayinges. ²¹ Let them not depart from thyne eies, kepe them in the middes of thy hart. ²² For they are life to thofe that finde them, and health to al flesh. ²³ With al garde keepe thy ^a)hart, becaufe life proceedeth from it. ²⁴ Remoue from thee a froward mouth, and let detracting lippes be far from thee. ²⁵ Let thyne eies fee right thinges, & let thine eieliddes goe before thy fteppes. ²⁶ Direct the path to thy feete, and al thy wayes shal be eftablished. ²⁷ Decline not to the right hand, nor to the left: turne away thy foote from euil. ²⁸ For our Lord knoweth the wayes that are on the right hand: but thofe are peruers, which are on the left hand. ²⁹ But he wil make thy courfes right, and thy wayes he wil bring forward in peace.

^a As the hart is the principal part of the bodie, fo the vvil is the chieft powre of the foule: from vvich good or euil procedeth.