

Chapter 07

He further exhorteth youngmen to feke wifdom, 5. especially to flee from the intifements of harlots, largely defcribing the fame, 22. and the ruine of them that are fo deluded.

My fonne, ^{a)}keepe my wordes, and my preceptes hide with thee. Sonne, ² keepe my commandmentes, and thou shalt liue: and my law as the apple of thine eie: ³ binde it on thy fingers, write it in the tables of thy hart. ⁴ Say to wifdom, thou art my fifter: & cal prudence thy freind, ⁵ that she may keepe thee from the ftrange woman, and from the forener which maketh her wordes fweete. ⁶ For out of the window of my houle I looked out through the lattife, ⁷ and I fee litle ones, I behold a foolish youngman, ⁸ which paffeth through the ftreates by the corner, and goeth nigh the way of her houle, ⁹ in the darke the day being toward euening, in the darkenes of the night, and dimnes. ¹⁰ And behold the woman meeteth him in harlotes atyre, prepared to deceiue foules: babling and wandering, ¹¹ impatient of reft, nor able to confit in the houle on her feete, ¹² now abroad, now in the ftreates, now lying in wayte neere the corners. ¹³ And taking the youngman she kifseth him, and with malepert countenance fpeaketh fayre, faying: ¹⁴ I vowed victimnes for welfare, this day I haue payed my vowes. ¹⁵ Therefore I am come forth to meete thee, defirous to fee thee, and I haue found thee. ¹⁶ I haue wouen my bed with cordes, I haue adorned it with tapeftrie pictures out of Ægypt. ¹⁷ I haue fprinkled my bed with myrrhe, aloes, and cinamome. ¹⁸ Come let vs be inebriated with breftes, and let

^a Becaufe tentations ftill occurre in this life, and man is fraile, good exhortations, and earneft admonitions muft alfo be continually inculcated, as here the vvifman often repeteth and much vrgeth the fame good and neceffarie aduifes to embrace vvifdom and to vvalke ftill in the vvay of vertue, efpecially to flee from vices, and dangers of finne.

vs enioy defired embracings, til the day appeare. ¹⁹ For my husband is not at home, he is gone a very long iourney. ²⁰ He caried with him a bagge of money: in the day of the ful moone he wil returne to his houle. ²¹ She intangled him with many wordes, and with flatterie of lippes drewe him. ²² Immediatly he foloweth her ^a)as an oxe led to be a victime, & as a lambe playing the wanton, and not knowing that he is drawen as a foole to bondes, ²³ til the arow pearfe his liuer: as if a birde should make hafte to the fnare, and knoweth not that his life is in danger. ²⁴ Now therfore my fonne, heare me, and attend to the wordes of my mouth. ²⁵ Let not thy mind be drawen away in her wayes: neither be thou deceiued with her pathes. ²⁶ For she hath caft downe manie wounded, and al the moft ftrong are flaine by her. ²⁷ Her houle the wayes of hel, penetrating to the inner partes of death.

^a Sinners after consent geuen to tentations, are as inconfiderate of their ovvne ftate, & of their perile and ruine, as an oxe, vvhen he is ledde to the fhamles, or a bird allured vvith a bate, that flieth into the fnare or nette.