

Chapter 08

Wifdom is preached in confpicious and moft frequented places, that none may pretend wante of admonition, 7. her doctrin is true, godlie, profitable, & neceffarie to al fortes of men. 12. Wifdom (increated which is God himfelfe) is eternal, 32. and bringeth eternal happines.

Doth not wifdom crie, and prudence geue her voice? ² Standing ^{a)}in the high & loftie toppes ouer the way, in the middes of the pathes, ³ befide the gates of the citie in the verie doores she fpeaketh, faying: ⁴ O men, to you I crie, and my voice is to the children of men. ⁵ O litle ones vnderftand fubtiltie, and ye vnwife marke. ⁶ Heare ye, becaufe I wil fpeake of great thinges: and my lippes fhall be opened to preach right thinges. ⁷ My throte fhall meditate truth, and my lippes fhall deteft the impious. ⁸ Al my wordes are iuft, there is no wicked, nor peruerfe thing in them. ⁹ They are right to them that vnderftand, and iuft to them that finde knowlege. ¹⁰ Receiue ye difcipline, & not money: choofe doctrine rather then gold. ¹¹ For wifdom is better then al moft precious riches: and whatfoeuer is to be defired can not be compared to it. ¹² I ^{b)}wifdome dwel in counfel, and am prefent in lerned cogitations. ¹³ The feare of our Lord hateth euil: arrogancie, and pride, and wicked way, and a duble toungued mouth I doe deteft. ¹⁴ Myne is counfel & equitie, prudence is mine, ftrengh is mine. ¹⁵ By me kinges doe reigne, and the makers of law decree iuft thinges. ¹⁶ By me princes rule, and the mightie decree iuftice. ¹⁷ I loue them that loue me: and they that watch toward me fhall finde me. ¹⁸ With me are riches, and glorie, glorious riches, and

^a True vvifdom directing to good life & fo to eternal faluation, is only found in the vifible Church ftanding vpon a mountaine, not hidde in corners or obfcure places.

^b Thefe fingular praifes pertaine to the increated wifdom, God himfelf, from whom procedeth wifdom geuen to men by the Holie Ghoft. See *Annot. ch. 1. v. 2.*

iustice. ¹⁹ For my fruite is better then gold, and precious stone, and my blofomes then chofen filuer. ²⁰ I walke in the wayes of iustice, in the middes of the pathes of iudgement, ²¹ that I may enriche them that loue me, and may replenish their treafures. ²² Our Lord poffessed me in the beginning of his wayes, before he had made anything from the beginning. ²³ From eternitie I was ordayned & of old before the earth was made. ²⁴ The depthes were not as yet, and I was now conceiued, neither had the fountaines of waters as yet gushed forth: ²⁵ the mountaines with heauie hugeneffe ftoode not as yet: before the litle hilles I was brought forth: ²⁶ he had not yet made the earth, and the riuers, and the poles of the round world. ²⁷ When he prepared the heauens, I was present: when with a certaine law and circuite he compaffed the depthes: ²⁸ when he established the firmament aboue, & poyfed the fountaines of waters: ²⁹ when he compaffed the fea with her limites, and fet a law to the waters that they should not paffe their boundes: when he hanged the foundations of the earth. ³⁰ I was with him, framing al thinges: and was delighted euerie day, playing before him at al time, ³¹ playing in the world: & ^a)my delights to be with the children of men. ³² Now therfore children heare me. Bleffed are they, that keepe my wayes. ³³ Heare ye difcipline, and be wife, and reiect it not. ³⁴ Bleffed is the man that heareth me, & that watcheth at my doores dayly, & wayteth at the poftes of my doore. ³⁵ He that shal finde me, shal finde life, and shal draw faluation of our Lord. ³⁶ But he that shal finne againft me, shal hurt his owne foule. Al that hate me, loue death.

^a God much preferreth man before al other corporal creatures.