

Chapter 06

Kinges and al Magistrates are againe admonished to exercise iustice: 7. otherwise they shal be more greuoufly punished. 13. Wifdom may easely be found, 18. by thofe that sincerely desire it. 22. And is very profitable (25. excepting the enuious, or il disposed) 26. both to prince and people.

Eccle. 9. v. 18.

Vifedom is better then strenght: and a wifeman then a strong. ² Heare therefore ye kinges, & vnderftand, lerne ye iudges of the endes of the earth. ³ Geue eare ye, that rule multitudes, and that please yourfelues in multitudes of nations: ⁴ becaufe the ^a)powre is geuen you of our Lord, and strenght by the Higheft, who wil examine your workes, and fearch your cogitations: ⁵ becaufe when you were the minifters of his kingdom, you iudged not rightly, nor kept the law of iustice, nor haue walked according to the wil of God. ⁶ Horribly and quickly wil he appeare to you: becaufe moft feure iudgement shal be done on them, that beare rule. ⁷ For to the litle one mercie is granted: but ^b)the mightie shal mightely fuffer torments. ⁸ For God wil not except any mans perfon, neither wil feare the greatnes of any man: becaufe he made the litle and the great, & he hath equally care of al. ⁹ But to the stronger more strong torment is imminent. ¹⁰ To you therefore ô kings are thefe my wordes, that you may lerne wifdom, and not fal. ¹¹ For they that haue kept iuft thinges iuftly, shal be iuftified: and they that haue lerned thefe thinges, shal find what they may anfwer. ¹² Couet ye therefore my wordes, and loue them, and you shal haue difcipline. ¹³ Wifdom is cleere, and fuch as neuer fadeth, and is easely fene of them that loue her, and is found of them

Rom. 13. v. 1.

^a Al powre is from God: & therefore to be refpected, though the magiftrates fometimes abufe their auctoritie.

^b As euerie ones charge is more or leffe, fo his account is eafier or harder, and the punishment (if he offend) fmaller or greater. *S. Greg. ho. 9. in Euang.*

that feeke her. ¹⁴ She preuenteth them that couete her, that she firſt may ſhew herſelf vnto them. ¹⁵ He that awaketh early to her, ſhal not labour: for he ſhal find her fitting at her doores. ¹⁶ To thinke therfore of her, is perfect vnderſtanding: and he that watcheth for her, ſhal quickly be ſecure. ¹⁷ Becauſe ſhe goeth about ſeeking them that be worthie of her, and in the wayes ſhe wil ſhew her ſelf to them cheerefully, and in al prouidence ſhe wil meete them. ¹⁸ For ^a)the beginning of her is the moſt true deſire of diſcipline. ¹⁹ The care therfore of diſcipline, is loue: and loue is the keeping of her lawes: and the keeping of the lawes, is the confummation of incorruption: ²⁰ and incorruption maketh to be next to God. ²¹ Therefore the deſire of wiſdom leadeth to the euerlaſting kingdom. ²² If therfore you be delighted with thrones, and with ſcepters ô ye kinges of the people, loue wiſdom, that you may reigne for euer. ²³ Loue the light of wiſdom al ye that beare rule ouer peoples. ²⁴ But what wiſdom is, and how ſhe was made, I wil declare: and I wil not hide from you the myſteries of God, but from the beginning of her natiuitie I wil ſearch out, and ſette the knowlege of her into light, and wil not let paſſe the truth: ²⁵ neither wil I goe with pynning enuie: becauſe ſuch a man ſhal not be partaker of wiſdom. ²⁶ But the multitude of the wiſe is the health of the round world: and a wiſe king is the ſtabilitie of the people. ²⁷ Therefore take ye diſcipline by my wordes, and it ſhal profite you.

^a VViſdom is attained by this gradation and ſo from firſt to laſt, a reſolute deſire ioyneth faithful ſoules to God. *v. 21.*