

¹My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:²For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.³Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:⁴So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.⁸It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.⁹Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:¹⁰So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.¹¹My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:¹²For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.¹³Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.¹⁴For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.¹⁵She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.¹⁸She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.¹⁹The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath

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he established the heavens.²⁰ By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.²¹ My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:²² So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.²³ Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.²⁴ When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.²⁵ Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.²⁷ Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it .²⁸ Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.²⁹ Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.³⁰ Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.³¹ Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.³² For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.³³ The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.³⁴ Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

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