

¹Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.²For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.³For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.⁴He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.⁵Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.⁶Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.⁸Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.⁹She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.¹⁰Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.¹¹I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.¹²When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.¹³Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.¹⁵Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.¹⁶For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.¹⁸But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.¹⁹The way of the wicked is as

darkness: they know not at what they stumble.²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.²⁴ Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.²⁵ Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.²⁶ Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.²⁷ Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.