

*Wisdom.* Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. Knowledge refers to acquirements, while wisdom refers to conduct. Wisdom is sanctified common sense. It is intelligent faith. It is sometimes personified as if it were a living word; and we may take wisdom in the Old Testament as dimly foreshadowing Christ, the Word of God in the New Testament.

*Verses 1-6.* Tell some of adding faith to faith, one degree of grace to another, and you will find they have more mind to join house to house and field to field. It is earth, earth; and they never think they have had enough of it till death comes and stops their mouth with a shovelful dugged out of their own grave.—*Gurnall*.

Henry IV of France asking the Duke of Alva if he had observed the eclipses happening in that year, he answered that he had so much business on earth that he had no leisure to look up to heaven. A sad thing it is to see men so bent on the things of this world as never to think of the heaven which bends over them.—*Spencer*.

*Verses 7-9.* There are many locks in my house, and all with different keys, but I have one master-key which opens all. So the Lord has many treasuries and secrets shut away from worldly minds which they cannot open. But he who walks in fellowship with Jesus possesses the master-key which will admit him to all the blessings of the covenant; yea, to the very heart of God.—*Spurgeon*.

*Deceitfulness of sin.* *Verses 10-19.* What a diabolical invention was the "Virgin's kiss," once used by the fathers of the Inquisition! The victim was pushed forward to kiss the image, when, lo! its arms inclosed him in a deadly embrace, piercing his body with a hundred hidden knives. The tempting pleasures of sin offer to the unwary just such a virgin's kiss, and then the daggers of remorse and despair wound beyond all remedy.

A tourist, in speaking of the hideous representations of the devil by the old artists, said, "Such a devil as that would never tempt anyone. The Bible says he comes as an angel of light; and Shakespeare says, 'The devil is a gentleman.'"

The most successful fisherman puts his skill into his bait on the hook. The most dangerous places are those most finely decorated. The road is straight between the elegant saloon, with its mirrors and dazzling array of silver, and the vilest dive, whose rotten floors rock with filth and disease. Beauty covering a corrupt heart is worse than ugliness.

### Orientalisms of the Lesson.

There is a period in the development of all nations when they come to use sententious utterances, and generally develop a distinct literature of proverb-

ial character. Some of these are merely the observations of ordinary practical life. In most Eastern nations they include a good deal that is not worthy of place among proverbs, as such. The distinguishing feature of the scriptural proverbs is that they have always a high moral purpose, nothing of the flat and inane order being found among them. Very sententious proverbs may, however, be picked out from among almost all the "sayings" of the oriental nations, though mixed with a good deal that is of a tame and trifling character. We select from the Chinese some of the best, having a moral bearing or relating to proprieties of conduct:

"Advance along the right way, and retreat from the evil way." "Do not betray the secret of the household." "Be humane to animals." "Rectify yourself and convert men." "Have pity for orphans and show compassion to widows." "Rejoice at the success of others, and sympathize with their reverses, as though you were in their place." "Do not expose the faults of others." "Bestow favors without expecting recompense." "Give willingly." "A man who does these things is called virtuous. All men respect him. Providence protects him. Good fortune and office attend him. The demons flee from him. The godlike spirits guard him. He succeeds in all that he lays his hand to, and to him is given the hope of immortality." "He who wishes to become an immortal of heaven must do a thousand and three hundred good works. He who wishes to become an immortal of earth must do three hundred good works." "Do not take advantage of the ignorance of men to deceive them by lying words." "Do not divulge the faults of your parents." "Do not buy groundless praise." "When you see others covered with glory and honor, do not desire to see them exiled from the country." "A handsome figure excites the admiration of the world, but it does not deceive heaven." "Do not laugh at the deformities of others." "Do not deceive the innocent and set snares for them." "Live in harmony with your wife." "Wives, respect your husbands." "Grieve not that men know you not, but grieve that you are ignorant of men." "Governing with equity resembles the north star, which is fixed, and all the stars surround it." "Learning without reflection will profit nothing; reflection without learning will leave the mind uneasy and miserable." "Knowledge produces pleasure clear as water; complete virtue brings happiness solid as a mountain; knowledge pervades all things; virtue is tranquil and happy; knowledge is delight; virtue is long life." "Without virtue, both riches and knowledge seem to me like the passing cloud; the sage's conduct is affection and benevolence in operation." "The man who possesses complete virtue wishes to fix his own mind therein, and also to fix the minds of others; he wishes to be wise himself, and would fain render

others equal. He who has virtue refuses to obtain it; he esteems virtue perfect man; private interest reason loves if you. The perfect He that is sad that is seduce studies is no

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