

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON.

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1Love righteousness, ye that be judges of the earth,

Think ye of the Lord ¹ with a good mind,

And in singleness of heart seek ye him;

2Because he is found of them that tempt him not,

And is manifested to them that do not distrust him.

3For crooked thoughts separate from God;

And the supreme Power, when it is brought to the proof, ² putteth to confusion the foolish:

4Because wisdom will not enter into a soul that deviseth evil,

Nor dwell in a body that is held in pledge by sin.

5For a holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit.

And will start away from thoughts that are without understanding,

And will be ³ put to confusion when unrighteousness hath come in.

6For ⁴ wisdom is a spirit that loveth man,

And she will not hold a ⁵ blasphemer guiltless for his lips;

Because God beareth witness of his reins,

And is a true overseer of his heart,

¹+ 1:1 Gr. in goodness.

²+ 1:3 Gr. convicteth.

³+ 1:5 Gr. convicted.

⁴+ 1:6 Some authorities read the spirit of wisdom is loving to man.

⁵+ 1:6 Or, reviler

A nd a hearer of his tongue:

7Because the spirit of the Lord hath filled ⁶ the world,

A nd that which holdeth all things together hath knowledge of every voice.

8Therefore no man that uttereth unrighteous things shall be unseen;

+ 1:8 Some authorities read Nor indeed. Neither shall Justice, when it convicteth, pass him by.

9For in the midst of his counsels the ungodly shall be searched out;

A nd the sound of his words shall come unto the Lord

T o bring to conviction his lawless deeds:

10Because there is an ear of jealousy that listeneth to all things,

A nd the noise of murmurings is not hid.

11Beware then of unprofitable murmuring,

A nd refrain your tongue from backbiting;

B ecause no secret utterance shall go on its way void,

A nd a mouth that beliieth destroyeth a soul.

12Court not death in the error of your life;

N either draw upon yourselves destruction by the works of your hands:

13Because God made not death;

N either delighteth he when the living perish:

14For he created all things that they might have being:

⁶+ 1:7 Gr. the inhabited earth.

A nd ⁷ the generative powers of the world are healthsome,

A nd there is no poison of destruction in them:

N or hath Hades ⁸ royal dominion upon earth,

15For righteousness is immortal:

16But ungodly men by their hands and their words called ⁹ death unto them:

D eeming him a friend they ¹⁰ consumed away,

A nd they made a covenant with him,

B ecause they are worthy to be of his portion.

2For they said ¹¹ within themselves, reasoning not aright,

S hort and sorrowful is our life;

A nd there is no healing when a man cometh to his end,

A nd none was ever known that ¹² gave release from Hades.

2Because by mere chance were we born,

A nd hereafter we shall be as though we had never been:

B ecause the breath in our nostrils is smoke,

A nd ¹³ while our heart beateth reason is a spark,

3Which being extinguished, the body shall be turned into ashes,

⁷ + 1:14 Or, all the races of creatures in the world

⁸ + 1:14 Or, a royal house

⁹ + 1:16 Or, Hades Gr. him.

¹⁰ + 1:16 Or, were consumed with love of him

¹¹ + 2:1 Or, among

¹² + 2:1 Or, returned out of Hades

¹³ + 2:2 Or, reason is a spark kindled by the beating of our heart