

PROVERBS 7

¹ My son, keep my words, and hide my commandments with you. My son, honor the Lord, and you shall be strong; and fear none but Him.

² Keep my commandments, and you shall live; and *keep* my words as the pupils of *your* eyes.

³ And bind them on your fingers, and write *them* on the table of your heart.

⁴ Say that wisdom is your sister, and gain prudence as an acquaintance for yourself;

⁵ that she may keep you from the strange and wicked woman, if she should assail you with flattering words.

⁶ For she looks from a window out of her house into the streets, at one whom she may see of the senseless ones, a young man devoid of understanding,

⁷ passing by the corner in the passages near her house,

⁸ and speaking, in the dark of the evening,

⁹ when there happens *to be* the stillness of night and of darkness:

¹⁰ and the woman meets him having the appearance of a harlot, that causes the hearts of young men to flutter.

¹¹ And she is fickle and rebellious, and her feet do not abide at home.

¹² For at one time she wanders outside, and at another time she lies in wait in the streets, at every corner.

¹³ Then she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said to him,

¹⁴ "I have a peace offering; today I pay my vows:

¹⁵ therefore I came forth to meet you, desiring your face; and I have found you.

¹⁶ I have spread my bed with sheets, and I have covered it with double tapestry from Egypt.

¹⁷ I have sprinkled my couch with saffron, and my house with cinnamon. ¹⁸ Come, and let us enjoy love until the morning; come, and let us embrace in love.

¹⁹ For my husband is not at home, and has gone on a long journey,

²⁰ having taken in his hand a bundle of money: after many days he will return to his house."

²¹ So with much conversation she convinced him to go astray, and with the snares of her lips forced him from *the right path*.

²² And he followed her, being gently led on, as that of an ox led to the slaughter, and as a dog to bonds, or as a deer shot in the liver with an arrow: ²³ and he hastens as a bird into a snare, not knowing that he is running for his life.

²⁴ Now then *my* son, listen to me, and attend to the words of my mouth.

²⁵ Let not your heart turn aside to her ways,

²⁶ for she has wounded and cast down many, and those whom she has slain are innumerable.

²⁷ Her house is the way to hell, leading down to the chambers of death.