

*On Life and Conduct*

23:1

**W**HEN you sit down to dine with a ruler,  
Consider carefully <sup>1</sup>what is before you;

**2** And put a knife to your throat,  
If you are a <sup>a</sup>man of *great* appetite.

**3** Do not <sup>a</sup>desire his delicacies,  
For it is deceptive food.

**4** <sup>a</sup>Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,  
<sup>b</sup>Cease from your <sup>1</sup>consideration of it.

**5** <sup>1</sup>When you set your eyes on it, it is gone.  
For <sup>a</sup>wealth certainly makes itself wings,  
Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

**6** <sup>a</sup>Do not eat the bread of <sup>1</sup>a <sup>b</sup>selfish man,  
Or desire his delicacies;

**7** For as he <sup>1</sup>thinks within himself, so he is.  
He says to you, "Eat and drink!"

But <sup>a</sup>his heart is not with you.

**8** You will <sup>a</sup>vomit up <sup>1</sup>the morsel you have eaten,  
And waste your <sup>2</sup>compliments.

**9** <sup>a</sup>Do not speak in the <sup>1</sup>hearing of a fool,  
For he will <sup>b</sup>despise the wisdom of your words.

**10** Do not move the ancient boundary,  
Or <sup>a</sup>go into the fields of the fatherless;

**11** For their <sup>a</sup>Redeemer is strong;  
<sup>b</sup>He will plead their case against you.

**12** Apply your heart to discipline,  
And your ears to words of knowledge.

**13** <sup>a</sup>Do not hold back discipline from the child,  
Although you <sup>1</sup>beat him with the rod, he will not die.

**14** You shall <sup>1</sup>beat him with the rod,  
And <sup>a</sup>deliver his soul from Sheol.

**15** My son, if your heart is <sup>a</sup>wise,  
My own heart also will be glad;

**16** And my <sup>1</sup>inmost being will rejoice,  
When your lips speak <sup>a</sup>what is right.

**17** <sup>a</sup>Do not let your heart envy sinners,  
But *live* in the <sup>1</sup><sup>b</sup>fear of the LORD <sup>2</sup>always.

**18** Surely there is a <sup>1</sup>future,

And your <sup>b</sup>hope will not be cut off.  
19 Listen, my son, and <sup>a</sup>be wise,  
And <sup>b</sup>direct your heart in the way.  
20 Do not be with <sup>a</sup>heavy drinkers of wine,  
Or with <sup>b</sup>gluttonous eaters of meat;  
21 For the <sup>a</sup>heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty,  
And <sup>b</sup>drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

22 <sup>a</sup>Listen to your father who begot you,  
And <sup>b</sup>do not despise your mother when she is old.  
23 <sup>a</sup>Buy truth, and do not sell *it*,  
Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,  
And <sup>a</sup>he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.  
25 Let your <sup>a</sup>father and your mother be glad,  
And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

26 <sup>a</sup>Give me your heart, my son,  
And let your eyes <sup>1</sup> <sup>b</sup>delight in my ways.  
27 For a harlot is a <sup>a</sup>deep pit,  
And an <sup>1</sup> <sup>b</sup>adulterous woman is a narrow well.  
28 Surely she <sup>a</sup>lurks as a robber,  
And increases the <sup>1</sup>faithless among men.

29 Who has <sup>a</sup>woe? Who has sorrow?  
Who has contentions? Who has complaining?  
Who has wounds without cause?  
Who has redness of eyes?

30 Those who <sup>a</sup>linger long over wine,  
Those who go to <sup>1</sup>taste <sup>b</sup>mixed wine.

31 Do not look on the wine when it is red,  
When it <sup>1</sup>sparkles in the cup,  
When it <sup>a</sup>goes down smoothly;

32 At the last it <sup>a</sup>bites like a serpent,  
And stings like a <sup>b</sup>viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange things,  
And your <sup>1</sup>mind will <sup>a</sup>utter perverse things.

34 And you will be like one who lies down in the <sup>1</sup>middle of the sea,  
Or like one who lies down on the top of a <sup>2</sup>mast.

35 “They <sup>a</sup>struck me, *but* I did not become ill;  
They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*.

When shall I awake?

I will <sup>b</sup>seek <sup>1</sup>another drink.”  
i

---

<sup>1</sup> Or, *who*

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 23:20

---

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 141:4; Prov. 23:6; Dan. 1:5, 8, 13, 15, 16  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 15:27; 28:20; Matt. 6:19; 1 Tim. 6:9; Heb. 13:5  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 3:5, 7  
<sup>1</sup> Or, *understanding*  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *Will your eyes fly upon it and it is not?*  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 27:24; 1 Tim. 6:17  
<sup>a</sup> Ps. 141:4  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *an evil eye*  
<sup>b</sup> Deut. 15:9; Prov. 28:22  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *reckons in his soul*  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 26:24, 25  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 25:16  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *your*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *pleasant words*  
<sup>a</sup> Matt. 7:6  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *ears*  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 1:7  
<sup>a</sup> Jer. 22:3; Zech. 7:10  
<sup>a</sup> Job 19:25; Jer. 50:34  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 22:23  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 13:24; 19:18  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *smite*  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *smite*  
<sup>a</sup> 1 Cor. 5:5  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 23:24f.; 27:11; 29:3  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *kidneys*  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 8:6  
<sup>a</sup> Ps. 37:1; Prov. 24:1, 19  
<sup>1</sup> Or, *reverence*  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 28:14  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *all the day*  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *latter end*  
<sup>a</sup> Ps. 19:11; 58:11; Prov. 24:14  
<sup>b</sup> Ps. 9:18  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 6:6  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 4:23; 9:6  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 20:1; 23:29, 30; Is. 5:22; Matt. 24:49; Luke 21:34; Rom. 13:13; Eph. 5:18  
<sup>b</sup> Deut. 21:20; Prov. 28:7  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 21:17  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 6:10, 11  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 1:8; Eph. 6:1  
<sup>b</sup> Prov. 15:20; 30:17  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 4:7; 18:15; Matt. 13:44  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 29:3  
<sup>a</sup> Prov. 27:11

---

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 3:1; 4:4

<sup>1</sup> Another reading is *observe*

<sup>b</sup> Ps. 1:2; 119:24

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 22:14

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *strange*

<sup>b</sup> Prov. 5:20

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 6:26; 7:12; Eccl. 7:26

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *treacherous*

<sup>a</sup> Is. 5:11, 22

<sup>1</sup> 1 Sam. 25:36; Prov. 20:1; Is. 5:11; 28:7; Eph. 5:18

<sup>1</sup> Or, *search out*

<sup>b</sup> Ps. 75:8

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *gives its eye*

<sup>a</sup> Song 7:9

<sup>a</sup> Job 20:16; Prov. 20:1; Eph. 5:18

<sup>b</sup> Ps. 91:13; Is. 11:8

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *heart*

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 2:12

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *heart*

<sup>2</sup> Or, *lookout*

<sup>a</sup> Prov. 27:22; Jer. 5:3

<sup>b</sup> Prov. 26:11; Is. 56:12

<sup>1</sup> Lit., *it yet again*

<sup>i</sup> *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.