

Ecclesiasticus 15:11-20

Do not say, “Because of the Lord I left the right way”; for he will not do what he hates. Do not say, “It was he who led me astray”; for he had no need of a sinful man. The Lord hates every abomination, and they are not loved by those who fear him. It was he who created mankind in the beginning, and he left him in the power of his own choice. If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person’s every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

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