

28 The Teacher's Proverbs and Conclusion

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for
their work:
If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!
Also, if two lie down together, they will
keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly
broken.

Not only was the Teacher wise, but
also he imparted knowledge to the
people. He pondered and searched out
and set in order many proverbs. The
Teacher searched to find just the right
words, and what he wrote was upright
and true.

The words of the wise are like goads,
their collected sayings like firmly
embedded nails—given by one
Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of
anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no
end, and much study wearies the body.

Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the
matter:
Fear God and keep his
commandments,
for this is the whole [duty] of man.
For God will bring every deed into
judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 12:9-14