**Proverbs (2:1-9)**

My son, you take my words to heart, if you set store by my commandments, tuning your ear to wisdom, and applying your heart to truth: yes, if your plea is for clear perception, if you cry out for discernment, if you look for it as if it were silver, and search for it as for buried treasure, you will then understand what the fear of the Lord is, and discover the knowledge of God. For the Lord himself is giver of wisdom, from his mouth issue knowledge and discernment. He keeps his help for honest men, he is the shield of those whose ways are honourable; he stands guard over the paths of justice, he keeps watch on the way of his devoted ones. Then you will understand what virtue is, justice, and fair dealing, all paths that lead to happiness.

The word of the Lord.