

¹My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;²So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;³Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;⁴If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;⁵Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.⁷He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.⁸He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.⁹Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea , every good path.¹⁰When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;¹¹Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:¹²To deliver

thee from the way of the evil man , from the man that speaketh froward things;¹³Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;¹⁴Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;¹⁵Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:¹⁶To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;¹⁷Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.¹⁸For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.¹⁹None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.²⁰That thou mayest walk in the way of good men , and keep the paths of the righteous.²¹For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.²²But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.