

## Outline of Proverbs

1-9	Wisdom and Folly Contrasted
10-24	Proverbs of Solomon
25-29	Compiled by Hezekiah
30	Oracle of Agur
31	Proverbs of Lemuel's Mother

### Author

Proverbs has multiple individuals named as authors of the book's five sections. Solomon is generally attributed to be the author since he wrote the majority. Solomon was uniquely qualified to serve as the principle author. 1 Kings 3:5-9 shows where Solomon asks God for wisdom as the leader of Israel. God granted the request (1Ki.4:29-31). Solomon identified himself as the source of most of the book. Solomon's name appears in almost all of the first 29 chapters. The final 2 chapters identify Agur (30:1) and Lemuel (31:1) as their authors. The identities of these men remains a mystery in history.

### Summary

Proverbs explicitly states its theme early in the book: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Pr.1:7). It is viewing God with the respect He deserves. It is living our lives in the light of what we know of Him, and depending on Him with humble trust. Only then will we discover knowledge and wisdom (Pr.9:10). The problem with unregenerated men is that "there is no fear of God before their eyes" (Ro.3:18) resulting in the snare of

# PROVERBS

*A Proverb is a short, pithy saying that usually draws a comparison between two forms of behavior in order to impart moral wisdom to its reader. Wisdom of this kind grows best with a humble heart.*

fearing men instead (Pr.29:25). It is interesting to note that when you fear God, you fear nothing else. But if you do not fear God then you fear everything else.

### Purpose

Proverbs contains no history. It is purely didactic. It deals primarily with philosophy. A philosopher by definition is a lover of wisdom. There is a difference between worldly and Godly philosophy. Worldly philosophy begins with a question. Biblical philosophy starts with the affirmation that God exists. Solomon hoped that his readers would attain practical righteousness in all things under the authority and direction of

*Read This book. Know These words. Live This life.*

## Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

God. Much of the book emphasizes listening to others so that we might learn from them and apply their combined knowledge. Wisdom involves appropriating a measure of humility, first before God and then before others. Proverbs focuses on concrete human experiences rather than divine revelation. Proverbs' judgments always entail a timeless quality. Biblical wisdom implies acquiring a skill or ability in the areas of justice and moral goodness just like a craftsman learning

WISDOM

BOOK 20  
**Pr**  
PROVERBS  
31 CHAPTERS

a craft. Proverbs frequently instructs the listener to "get" or "buy" wisdom (Pr.4:5; 23:23).

### How To Apply

Read it, then live it! Most of the proverbs are pithy statements brimming over with imagery from real world experiences. This approach clearly allows us to see how any particular proverb might be applied to any number of everyday situations. The extent includes getting out of bed in the morning to building a strong foundation in our relationships to others. Proverbs reminds us that God concerns Himself not just with the big events of life, but even those mundane and invisible moments in our lives as well. One of the great problems in Bible reading is that we move our eyes over the words and come to the end of a column and do not know what we've read. It was purely mechanical. There was no discovery. One of the best ways to change that is to train yourself to ask questions of the text.



### CHRIST IN PROVERBS

- Many writers consider "wisdom" in Proverbs as a personification of Jesus Christ "who became to us wisdom from God" (1Co.1:30).