

In the first nine chapters of **Proverbs** the attention is directed to the dangers that so easily beset the individual, and the value of wisdom, and the importance of a steady pursuit of wisdom.

In the first nine chapters the proper attitude necessary for pursuing “*wisdom*” is revealed. There must be an attitude of:

REVERENCE [9:10]
HUMILITY [11:2]
TEACHABLENESS [9:9]
DILIGENCE [8:17]
RIGHTEOUSNESS [2:7].

The first nine chapters serve as a preface or preparation to the actual proverbs. The second part of the book of **Proverbs** commences at the opening of **chapter 10** and is called “*The proverbs of Solomon*” [10:1]. The style and manner of this second part of the book is as different as possible from that of the first section [chapters 1-9]. The “*proverbs*” consist of two lines which are a **parallelism** or a pair of statements laid along side one another. The purpose of these “*proverbs*” is to teach and to provoke thought. “*The proverbs of Solomon*” consist of various types of parallelism:

Synonymous (alike) Parallelism-Two ideas are brought together saying the same thing in different words. The second line repeats the first in an altered form in order to express the lesson of the proverb with more clarity [16:18].

Antithetical (opposite) Parallelism-Two ideas are contrasted with one another. The second line states the same principle of the first, but from the opposite standpoint. In antithetical parallelism the two lines are usually connected with the conjunction “*but*” [10:1, 5, 29; 13:1, 18; 17:22; 19:16].

Synthetic (complete) Parallelism-Two parts are put together to form a whole. The second line amplifies and expands the meaning of the first line. The link between the two statements is usually “*and*” or “*so*” [10:18; 14:10, 13; 16:3; 17:6].

Comparative (type) Parallelism-The first line is an illustration, type, or example drawn from nature or daily life, and usually begins with “*as*” or “*like*” [10:26; 25:11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 25].

“*The proverbs*” are not merely theory, but **principles** for living! They are not merely a collection of wise sayings, but Divine **rules** from heaven to govern human conduct. And when the principles of the book of **Proverbs** are properly **studied** and **applied** they will **brace**, **fortify**, and **strengthen** the believer’s character, and **vitalize**, **energize**, and **rejuvenate** the believer’s walk with God!