

## I. Psalms - Proverbs Comparison and Contrast

- A. Both books are collections of writings of various men
- B. Primary force behind each book
  - 1. Psalms: David
    - a) Psalm 27 - *One thing I have asked of the Lord*
    - b) Outlook - Man before God
    - c) View of men - righteous and sinners
  - 2. Proverbs: Solomon
    - a) 1 Kings 3:9 - *Give your servant an understanding heart*
    - b) Outlook - A man among men
    - c) View of men - wise men and fools

## II. Structure of Proverbs

- A. Introduction to Wisdom 1-9
- B. Solomon's Proverbs 10-29
- C. Wisdom of Agur and Lemuel 30-31

## III. Introductory Material (1-9)

- A. Solomon's view of men
  - 1. Wise men
  - 2. Fools
  - 3. Simple or Naive - Condition of all men and women in their youth
- B. Simple become wise by receiving instruction
- C. Simple become fools by "leaning to their own understanding."

- D. Note the emphasis in these chapters on the danger of adultery and harlotry
1. Note first that the instructions are valuable in themselves
  2. Instructions seem to point to something deeper
- E. Both wisdom and foolishness are personified as women appealing to the simple
1. Both promise a rich experience of life
  2. Each makes a different appeal
    - a) Wisdom
      - (1) Face your lack of wisdom
      - (2) Turn at my reproof
      - (3) The appeal is to what you can become
    - a) Foolishness
      - (1) Flattery - You already are something
      - (2) Take charge of your life
      - (3) The appeal is because of what you are
- F. Difference between a wise man and a fool is whether they can receive instruction
- G. Application with regards to God (Proverbs 3:5-12)
1. Trust in the Lord with all your heart - Do not lean to your own understanding
  2. Do not reject the discipline of the Lord
    - a) Do not harden your heart
    - b) Do not give up in discouragement
  3. Respond to His loving correction