



**Studies in the Book of Proverbs** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

**(#99) The Proverbs of Solomon 15:24- Going Up, Or Going Down?**

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

**Proverbs 15:24:**

The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.

“Upward” signifies away from the earth, and “below” describes the same, away from the earth, not down to its core! Many, it seems, wrongly think “Hell” is inside the earth. The “everlasting fire” is “prepared for the devil and his angels” (**Matthew 25:41**), but is in the opposite direction from Heaven where God is. Since “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (**1 John 1:5**), then for those who follow the Devil, God has “reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (**Jude 13**).

Regarding a human death, which is the separation of the spirit from the body, Solomon said: “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it” (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). Solomon dealt with the difference between the death of a human and that of an animal by asking: “Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?” (**Ecclesiastes 3:21**). Physical bodies return to dust, but spirits have a different direction. Of those spirits who return to God, Jesus Christ stated the difference:

So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (**Luke 16:22-23**)

Christians, like the Apostle Paul, should “press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (**Philippians 3:14**). Jesus Christ said:

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (**Mark 16:15-16**)

Are you going up, or going down?



*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*