

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Life Fellowship



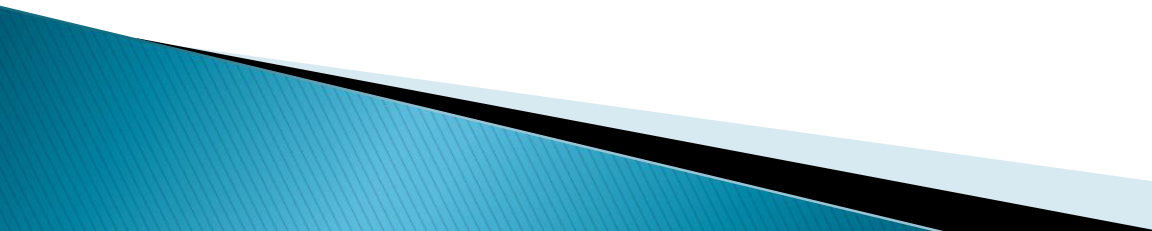


Ecclesiastes Chapter 5

I. Ecclesiastes Chapter 5

A. Faults in our Prayer and Worship

Ecc 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

- **Keep thy foot** – Another way to say it – Think about what you are doing – be focused and prepared before blindly rushing to God.
 - **House of God** – Remember at this time before the cross, the Jews went to the temple to worship. Now we can pray and worship directly to God through our relationship with Christ.
 - **Be MORE ready to hear** – To draw near to God and obey is better than sacrifice. Solomon here is probably looking back at all the years of his life where he failed to hear and reverence God and instead acted like a fool.
 - **Sacrifice of fools** – Foolish people vainly think that they can please God with their giving instead of their reverence and obedience.
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Examples that we see in real life:

V. Many believers say they are dedicated Christians but spend very little time in prayer.

VI. Many believers give their money, but refuse to commit their time in ministry.

VII. Many believers, attend worship service but refuse to sing God praise during service.



Ecc 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

This verse shows our Position in God's Kingdom.

rash with thy mouth – Some people pray like they are bossing God around – is that right?

Solomon is teaching us – Take time to compose what you are going to say– don't just walk in and blurt something out. Think before speaking – you are addressing the Lord of Lords!

hasty to utter *anything* before God –not thought out before making them

Heaven, Earth– This establishes **Our Rank:**



Ecc 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business;
and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Earlier in Solomon's life he wrote to this to his son Reboam:

Pro_21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul
from troubles.

B. Vows to God

Ecc 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

Ecc 5:5 Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.


Ecc 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it *was* an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

Ecc 5:7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there are* also *divers* vanities: but fear thou God.

A. God takes our vows to him Very Seriously

1. God calls those who break vows – fools = equates us to lost man – people not dedicated or obedient to Him.
2. A vow is a promise – breaking a vow is telling a lie and is sin!
3. This principle is repeated 4 different times in the Bible – (Numb 30:1–2. Deu 23:21–23, Mat 5:33–37, James 5:12)

Ecc 5:5 Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Ecc 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it *was* an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? Ecc 5:7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there are* also *divers* vanities: but fear thou God.



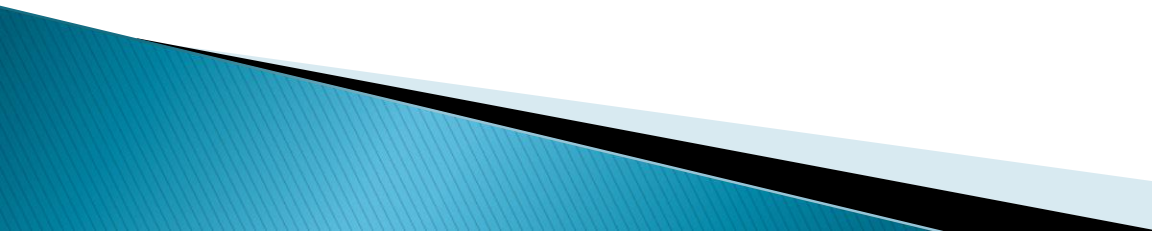
B. The doctrine that God is trying to make sure that we do not miss:

1. Do not make promises lightly to God, if at all – He takes them VERY seriously.
2. If you make a promise – you must keep it, even if it hurts you. If you fail – you are lying directly to God.
3. Because you do not know what tomorrow brings, so it is much better to not make vows, but sometimes we must, and sometimes God has made vows too.

C. The Vanity of Murmuring against Oppression

Ecc 5:8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for *he that is* higher than the highest regardeth; and *there be* higher than they.

God will make things right in the end but evil oppression exists and we can't change it.



D. The Vanity of Riches

Ecc 5:9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.

Ecc 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Ecc 5:11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

Ecc 5:12 The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

Ecc 5:13 There is a sore evil *which* I have seen under the sun, *namely*, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

Ecc 5:14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and *there is* nothing in his hand.

Ecc 5:15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

Ecc 5:16 And this also *is* a sore evil, *that* in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

Ecc 5:17 All his days also he eateth in darkness, and *he hath* much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

- ▶ Verse 9–11 – no matter what you covet – you will never have enough of it to be satisfied.
- ▶ Verse 12 – Having all those riches causes you to worry about them, and costs you sleep.

Think about what you worry about – retirement, bills, cars...these all cause you to lose sleep.

- ▶ Verse 13 Having too much stuff can actually ruin your life!
- ▶ Verses 14–17 You are born without riches, Die and cant take them with you, They leave you empty – so why bother? You just labored for the wind to blow them away!

Solomon's self focused conclusion:

Ecc 5:18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it *is* his portion.

Ecc 5:19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this *is* the gift of God.

Ecc 5:20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth *him* in the joy of his heart.



Ecclesiastes Chapter 6

A. Vanity of Riches Without Use

Ecc 6:1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it *is* common among men:

Ecc 6:2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this *is* vanity, and it *is* an evil disease.

Drug Lord's Money



B. Vanity of living an evil life

Ecc 6:3 If a man beget an hundred *children*, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also *that* he have no burial; I say, *that* an untimely birth *is* better than he.

Ecc 6:4 For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.

Ecc 6:5 Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known *any thing*: this hath more rest than the other.

Ecc 6:6 Yea, though he live a thousand years twice *told*, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

1. Evil people try to get ahead through evil works, but that does not lead to happiness.
2. All still die (and evil ones with no respect) He comes with vanity and leaves with vanity



C. The Vanity of Wondering Desires

Ecc 6:7 All the labour of man *is* for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

Ecc 6:8 For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?

Ecc 6:9 Better *is* the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this *is* also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Ecc 6:10 That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it *is* man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

Ecc 6:11 Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what *is* man the better?

Ecc 6:12 For who knoweth what *is* good for man in *this* life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

Section conclusion – man’s appetite is never satisfied

V 12 – still from a backslidden or unsaved man’s viewpoint

- a. Through God we know what is good in life.
 - b. Though God our life is not a shadow that passes away – we have eternal life, eternal purpose and eternal impact.
 - c. If we suffer in service of the Lord now – we know what is promised to us in eternity – UNDER the SON!
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