



## ***Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 5:***

1. If you're heading to the House of the Lord – Watch your step! If you really want to hear from Him, approach carefully and don't make stupid sacrifices. You don't want to cause offense and horribly miss the mark.
2. Don't be in a rush to loudly proclaim to God what He should do. Remember: He's got a higher perspective than you – ***much*** higher. Seriously – how high does heaven have to be above the earth before you remember your place? Zip it and listen.
3. A vision of what is possible will come after listening carefully and patiently while you go about your business. The fool just goes around tooting his own horn and proclaiming his big plans.
4. If you feel compelled to make a vow to God, don't set it aside and forget about it – make it the first order of business. This is one debt you do ***NOT*** want to default on. God takes no pleasure in unfaithful cheats.
5. The only good vow is an honored vow. If there's even a hint of lying in it, don't utter the words.
6. It's your responsibility to keep your mouth from uttering falsehoods and leading the rest of you into willful evil. With God there is no "Oops, I made a mistake when I made that promise. Sorry." Why provoke God's wrath on you and your work?
7. A lot of words means a lot of vanity and delusion. Respect God. That includes your words.
8. Take a hard look at your country. Are the poor being extorted and robbed? Is justice being perverted? If so, are you in the least surprised? Those who hold power are the least likely to humble themselves and serve others; to treat the less powerful with dignity and honor.
9. Working the land benefits everyone but the king will always get the best cut.

10. The one who starts out craving treasure will never be satisfied with his stash; the one who hoards wealth with his income no matter how big it gets. It's futile to think otherwise.

11. What good is the hoarding of goods? You can only consume so much. Too much consumes **you**. What kind of success is endless success? You'll succeed at nothing but unbounded greed.

12. Sweet, sweet sleep comes to the one who worked hard and had enough for his need. The rich one who ate and drank himself into a stupor will never sleep well.

13. There is real evil in keeping the one who works hard from enjoying the fruits of his labor. I've seen how the rich oppress the laborer by seizing all he produces.

14. Evil may seem profitable but it takes its toll – the evildoer dies **with** his sin while his evil spoil gets stripped from the hands of his descendants.

15. The evil rich man leaves the world the same way he entered it – naked and a pauper. No matter how he gained his wealth, he can't take it with him no matter how hard he tries.

16. The works of evil produce a special kind of poverty – nothing to show for it and still in debt. The one who lives like ends up with nothing but the wind.

17. On top of that, the evildoer is plagued by darkness and doubt all his days. It's a soul rot chock-full of dread, knowing there's wrath to come.

18. At last I saw it! In the face of all this evil how lovely it is to simply savor a peaceful meal; to enjoy a cold drink and warm conversation; to look back on all the hard work that led up to this and not constantly worry about the future. To count the days God gives us as the real treasure and live them with gratitude. God gave us this! What abundance!

19. And not only that God blesses us with such abundance, but that He gives us the capacity to enjoy them – that is even better. This is the work of which God is most proud of. Our gratitude is our gift to Him.

20. And gratitude turns all the struggles and pains into joy. You won't waste a minute regretting the hard work when God fills your heart with joy. Every day you live will be sweet indeed.

## ***Explain the Context***

From your own reading provide a short answer to the following:

<b>What</b> is the theme of this chapter?	<b>What</b> is the author communicating?
<b>What</b> did the author miss?	<b>What</b> is God trying to say?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) What is our attitude when entering in to worship?
- 2) In what ways am I hasty to speak? How can too many words lead me to sin?
- 3) Is there a time I have made a “vow” to God and not kept it? What was the outcome?
- 4) How do I respond when I see justice perverted?
- 5) What is my attitude toward wealth and possessions?
- 6) How am I generous with what I have?
- 7) Do I enjoy my work? Do I view it as a gift from God?
- 8) How does God keep me occupied (busy) with joy?

## Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

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How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

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## For further study:

Based on these scriptures what can we learn about our words? Add any others you find.

- Proverbs 15:1-2
- Psalm 39:1
- Proverbs 20:25
- 1 Peter 3:10
- James 3: 2-10

## Lessons the *author* should have learned:

- ~ Life is a gift with generosity.
- ~ God delights in showing His favor.