

Walk Prudently

(Ecclesiastes 5)

Walk: way of life

- Six sections of 3:16-4:16 may lead some to believe that God is not in control.
- Eccl.5 takes us to house of God for the answer.

I. Watch Your Worship, 1-7

1: House of God – Gn.28:17, 22

Temple, 1 K.6-8 // No temple, Jn.4:24

1. Walk prudently (guard feet). Ps.119:101

– Jews, Ex.3:5. Josh.5:15

– Lv.10, irony... Mt.15:9.

2. Draw near to hear... Ja.1:19-25

3. Avoid sacrifice of fools (1, 3, 4)

– Worship is sacrifice . . . Hb.13:15

Prov.7:14

1 Sm.15

1 Co.11:27

4. Do not know they do evil. Hb.12:28f.

2: rash mouth

- May include . . .
 - 1) **False worship.** Mt.6:5
 - 2) **Fruitless words** (all talk, no walk) v.2;
Mt.6:7-8.
 - 3) **Frivolous win** (I'm better than you):
Lk.18:9-12.

3: excess business – troubled dreams;
excess words – foolish speaking

- Ja.1:19
- Dream (3, 7)

If we're not careful, singing can become empty promises: all praise, no practice.

4-5: vow: pledge to do something

- Dt.23:21-23
- 1 Sm.1

Marriage

Pay debts

Baptism

- Ac.5:1-11
- Mk.6

6: do not sin with your mouth

- Messenger. Hag.1:13; Mal.2:7.
- Tongue sins – Ja.3.
 1. Life and death in power of tongue, Pr.18:21.
 2. Slanderer kills person's reputation: fool. Pr.10:18.
 3. False doctrine is eternally fatal. Gal.1.
 4. Lying. "I want to be a worker..." 1 Tim.4:2.

7: multitude of dreams

- 3, 7, (daydreams?) + empty words = vanity
- Do not talk without thinking.

I. Watch Your Worship, 1-7

II. Watch Your World, 8-9

Theme: poverty and plenty, 5:8-6:12

8: powerful people practice injustice (3:16-18). [They oppress the poor, pervert justice]

1. Officials are often corrupt.

2. God is supreme Court... 3:17; Dn.4:17.

Theme: poverty and plenty, 5:8-6:12

9: knotty translation:

“Even a king depends on the soil”?

“A land gains when the king is committed to cultivated fields”?

Dangers:

1. May think more of land / profit than God.
2. May sink into despair and unbelief.
Ps.73:16-17.

I. Watch Your Worship, 1-7

II. Watch Your World, 8-9

III. Watch Your Wealth, 10-17

10: wealth does not satisfy

- 1 Tim.6:9-10

11: prosperity costs (staff, parasites...)

- Prov.19:4
- Riches have a way of disappearing.

12: two cases

1. Laborer sleeps well.
2. Wealthy man overeats, worries, can't sleep...

13: riches can cause more harm than good

- Things own you!

14: possession is brief and uncertain...

- Everyone is just one . . . crime / illness / accident / depression / disaster / foolish investment away . . . Prov.23:4-5

15-16: 'as he came...'

- 1 Tim.6:7
- Wealthy return to Maker destitute.
- Many wealthy actors / athletes are not satisfied.

17: no joy – darkness, sorrow,
sickness, anger

18-20 (1/3)

- Seek enjoyment, not possessions.
- Key word: God

18: enjoy (NOT as 2:1, but 2:24). 1 Tim.6:17

a. Gift of God.

b. Heritage (reward, lot).

18-20 (2/3)

- Seek enjoyment, not possessions.
- Key word: God

19: power to eat of it.

18-20 (3/3)

- Seek enjoyment, not possessions.
- Key word: God

20: joy (not as 2:10, 26, but 9:7, 9)

Lk.12:20