

CONCLUSION

We must approach God reverently. “Ecclesiastes 5[:1-7] was written to help us take God more seriously when we worship. T. M. Moore has written a loose poetic paraphrase of these verses that can help us remember its spiritual lessons.

*How brazen and dishonest people are
with their religion. They will go as far
with it as suits their needs; so they attend
the services and sing the hymns, and when
they have to, give a little money to
the Lord. But do they live as one should do
who’s made a vow to God? Don’t kid yourself.
Among their friends their faith is on the shelf...*

*Remember, God knows everything.
He knows our hearts when we before him bring
our worship, and you can’t fool him. So take
a good look at yourself before you make
your next appearance before the Lord. And go
to listen, not to speak, for he will know
just what you need. Why, any fool can spout
a lovely prayer or sing a hymn about
his faith. His words are mindless, like a dream,
although to people looking on they seem
impressive. Not to God....*

*For words are cheap,
just like the dreams you have while you’re asleep.
God wants your heart, my son, not just a show.
Get right with him before you to him go.”*

Book:	Ecclesiastes
Series:	Two Ways to Live: Under the Sun or In the Fear of God
Lesson 9:	Wisdom for Worship
Text:	Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
Date:	Sunday, March 17, 2013
Next Lesson:	Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

In Ecclesiastes 5:1-7, we enter into the presence of Royalty, and such an entrance demands our reverence. However, not all who come into the presence of this King do so respectfully—the passage refers three times of “fools”—and these individuals discover that the consequence of their irreverence is much more severe than mere embarrassment and awkwardness (v. 1c, 6).

Solomon is calling us to watchfulness in our worship. He’s contrasting fear-filled worshippers with foolish worshippers, reverent worship with rash worship. And in order to save us from the severe consequences of irreverence, Solomon provides us with simple wisdom for our worship. **We must approach God** _____. Throughout this passage, we’re going to learn from Solomon six different characteristics of such fear-filled, reverent worship.

(v. 1a)

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.”

Application:

(v. 1b)

*“Be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools,
for they consider not that they do evil.”*

Application:

(v. 2a, d, 3)

*“Be not rash with thy mouth...Therefore let thy words be few.
For a dream cometh through the multitude of business,
and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words.”*

Application:

(v. 2b-c)

*“Let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God,
for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth.”*

Application:

(vv. 4-5)

*“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.
Better is it that thou shouldest not vow,
than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”*

Application:

(vv. 6-7)

*“Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin,
neither say thou before the [messenger] that it was an error;
wherefore should God be angry at thy voice
and destroy the work of thine hands?
For in the multitude of dreams and many words
there are also divers vanities.
But fear thou God.”*

Application: