

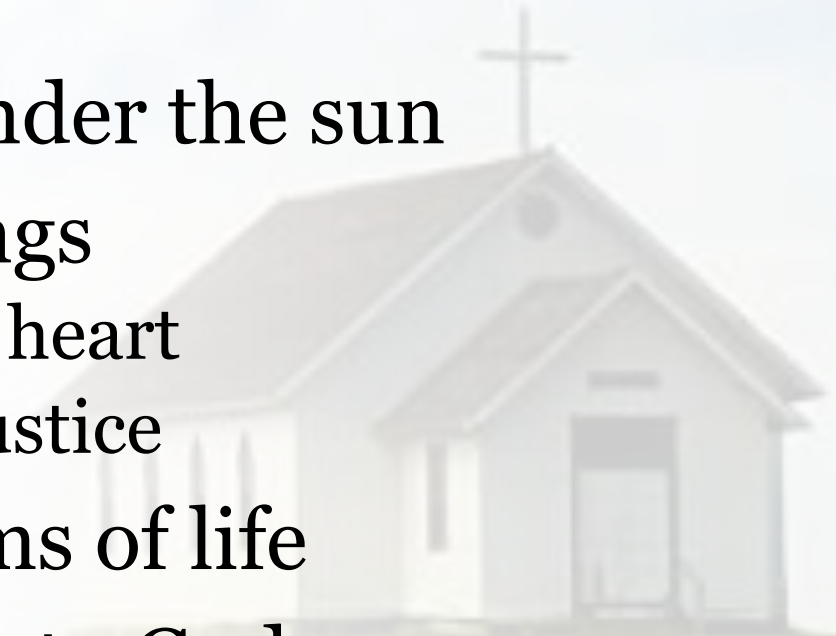


Man's Relationship to God

Ecclesiastes 5

Life “under the sun”

- Ch 1-2 All is vanity.. No profit under the sun
- Ch 3 God has a design for all things
 - 3:11 God has set eternity in human heart
 - 3:17 God will judge man/provide justice
- Ch 4 Man cannot resolve problems of life
- Ch 5 Consider man’s relationship to God



Coming before God (1-9)

— Proper attitude is essential

- 5:1 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.
- 5:2-3 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. ³ For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is *known* by *his* many words.

— **Proper Attitude:** reverence

— **Proper Response:** obedience

Foolish behavior 4-7

—Making hasty promises

- 4-5 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He* has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— ⁵ Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.
- 6-7 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger *of God* that it *was* an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? ⁷ For in the multitude of dreams and many words *there is* also vanity. But fear God.
 - Understand:** God is in Heaven
 - His Desire:** Fear God/Obey His Will

Abuse of High Position 8-9

- Do not be surprised with corruption
 - 5:8-9 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.
 - ⁹ Moreover the profit of the land is for all; *even* the king is served from the field.
 - **Reality:** men use position to own advantage
 - **How it should be:** rulers value the people

The Downside of Riches 10-18

- Greater riches do not bring satisfaction
 - 5:10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.
- More money = more worries
 - 5:11-12 When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes?
¹² The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.

The Downside of Riches 10-18

- You can't take it with you

- 5:13-15 There is a severe evil *which* I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. ¹⁴ But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, *there is* nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.

- Those who live high, die hard

- 5:16-17 And this also is a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind? ¹⁷ All his days he also eats in darkness, And *he has* much sorrow and sickness and anger.

Three Gifts with wisdom 18-20

- God gives true enjoyment
 - 5:18 Here is what I have seen: *It is good and fitting for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.
- God enables fulfillment in your work
 - 5:19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his ^[e]heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.
- God provides general contentment
 - 5:20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.



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