

*Ecclesiastes 5:1-7*

*5 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. <sup>3</sup> For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.*

*<sup>4</sup> When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. <sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup> Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.*

### **Hope is found in our relationship with God.**

2 hopes:

1. Eternal hope
2. Daily hope

The fool spoils his relationship with God by...but the wise finds hope in his relationship with God by...

*Guard your steps when you go to the house of God*

1) The fool spoils his relationship with God **by being flippant** but the wise finds hope in his relationship with God **by guarding his steps**.

*To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. <sup>3</sup> For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.*

2) The fool spoils his relationship with God **by elevating his own will** but the wise finds hope in his relationship with God **by conforming to God's will**.

*To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil*

**1 Samuel 15:22** *But Samuel replied:*

*"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?*

*To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

*<sup>4</sup> When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. <sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup> Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.*

3) The fool spoils his relationship with God **by making empty promises** but the wise finds hope in his relationship with God **by fearing God**.

**Hope is found in our relationship with God.**