

SCC MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY
May 30 2026 7:30 AM – Ecclesiastes 5

Ecclesiastes 5 warns that approaching God requires reverence, careful speech, and integrity in keeping vows, because God takes our words seriously. It also exposes the emptiness of wealth and the futility of trying to secure life through possessions, contrasting that with the quiet gift of enjoying one's work as God allows.

What's There? Searching the Scriptures

- A. In verse 1, the teacher tells his readers, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God." What do you think this type of attitude and approach to God looks like?

- B. What would you say is the goal of religious effort in the Christian life?

- C. The second part of Ecclesiastes 5:1 and verse 2 expand on what it looks like to fear God. How are we to approach him, according to these verses?

- D. Throughout Ecclesiastes, the teacher has repeatedly pointed out the futility of the world's ways with the fulfillment of God's ways. In vv. 5:1-7, what is the fool's error (or the futile mistake) that he warns against?

- E. What do we communicate to God if we don't fear him? (See verse 7)

- F. Does the vanity of accumulating money and things mean that it's wrong to have an ambition to get ahead or to improve your financial situation? Explain.

- G. Looking at verses 10-14, what problems did the teacher identify for those who are consumed with acquiring wealth and possessions?
- H. Verse 15 reminds us that death strips us of all physical possessions. How can keeping the reality of our mortality in mind actually help us make better, healthier choices with our money and time so we don't toil for the wind?
- I. Verse 17 describes a wealth-obsessed person eating "in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger." Why do you think a fixation on accumulation often leads to isolation and anxiety rather than peace and joy?
- J. Verse 19-20 mentions both receiving wealth *and* receiving "the ability to enjoy them." What is the difference between simply having resources and having the capacity to truly enjoy them? Why does the Teacher call the latter a "gift of God"?

So What & What Now? - Applying the Scriptures

Have you ever pursued meaningless religious activity before God? How can we best identify this type of activity?

What in your life do you most often attempt to exercise complete control over? What steps might you take this week to recognize God's sovereignty and power in that area of your life?

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