

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“GOD’S HOUSE”

Part 2

Eccl. 5:1-7

May 24, 2020

Ecc1 5:1-7

- 1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.
- 2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.
- 3 For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words.
- 4 When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!
- 5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.
- 6 Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?
- 7 For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God.

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When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

- A vow was a promise to make a donation of goods or money or service to the support of the temple and of those who served there. Solomon stressed that vows were serious business.

“God” - אֱלֹהִים - elohiym – great, mighty, supreme.

- El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)
- El Elyon (The Most High God)
- Adonai (Lord, Master)
- Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah)
- Yahweh Nissi (The Lord My Banner)
- Yahweh (The Lord My Shepherd)
- Yahweh Rapha (The Lord That Heals)
- Yahweh Shammah (The Lord Is There)
- Yahweh Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)
- Yahweh Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)
- El Olam (The Everlasting God)
- Elohim (God)
- Qanna (Jealous)
- Yahweh Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
- Yahweh Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)
- Yahweh Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

Though all 4 of these terms have slightly different levels of accountability, when made before God they are all the same and are all binding:

1. Promise

2. Swear

3. Vow

4. Oath

When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

- A vow was a promise to make a donation of goods or money or service to the support of the temple and of those who served there. Solomon stressed that vows were serious business.
- A vow is not essential, but once made it is binding.
- If anyone makes a vow, he or she must fulfill it in order to maintain the integrity of his life before God.
- In Israel when a person made a vow to God, he went to the temple to present a formal promise of what he was going to do for God or give to God at some future time. Then when the time came for him to fulfill or complete his vow, he returned to the temple to carry out what he had promised.

Num 6:2

2 Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the Lord,

Acts 18:18

18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

Num 30:2

2 "If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

Deut 23:21-22

21 "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you.

22 "However, if you refrain from vowing, it would not be sin in you.

Lev 19:12

12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.

Matt 5:33-37

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

34 "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

36 "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

What is going on in Matt. 5?

- The Pharisees thought they had a loophole when making a vow.
- They could lie or exaggerate in their conversations and lend themselves an air of credibility by saying, “I swear by heaven that this is true!”
- They could not be held to account because they did not specifically swear by God’s name.
- Jesus countered that idea. If you swear something, it had better be true.
- Jesus was not condemning all forms of promises, contracts, or agreements.
- Jesus was speaking of the kind of spontaneous vow made when a person says, “I cross my heart and hope to die” or “I swear on a stack of Bibles” or “I swear on my mother’s life.”
- Jesus warns against using those types of flippant oaths. His teaching in Matthew 5 is not meant to discourage careful, thought-out promises, such as wedding vows or a legal contract.
- The principle here is clear for believers: be careful about making vows, either to the Lord or to one another. The fact that we are prone to errors in judgment means that we may make vows foolishly or out of immaturity.
- The informal vows we make (“I swear by all the angels in heaven!”) are completely unnecessary. Our word is our bond.
- All you need to say is “yes” or “no.” Your word should be good. There’s no need for over-used expressions to bolster your case.

Have you ever taken a vow?

People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.



I, (Name), take
you, (Name), to
be my
wife/husband, to
have and to hold
from this day
forward, for
better, for worse,
for richer, for
poorer, in sickness
and in health, to
love and to
cherish, till death
us do part,
according to God's
holy law, in the
presence of God I
make this vow.

People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.

Do you promise before God to live for Christ and to serve Him all of the days of your life?



People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.



Do you promise before God that you will by the help of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, pray for the needs of our church and the advancement of the gospel, and walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you were called, and support our church with your service and resources for the building up of the body of Christ?

People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.
- Baby dedication vows.

Do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses, that you will with God's help and guidance, undertake to raise this little one in the way of the Lord?



People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.
- Baby dedication vows.
- Financial and material giving vows.

I promise before God to pledge \$_____ in the support of missions/debt retirement/general fund for the coming year.



People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.
- Baby dedication vows.
- Financial and material giving vows.
- Bible reading vows.



I promise before God to read through the Bible in the coming year.

People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.
- Baby dedication vows.
- Financial and material giving vows.
- Bible reading vows.
- Purity vows.

I promise to God, my future mate, and myself, to keep my mind and body morally clean and pure so that when I enter the marriage covenant, I will be able to give myself with a completely clean conscience to my mate.



People today make vows all the time:

- Marriage vows.
- Baptismal vows.
- Church membership vows.
- Baby dedication vows.
- Financial and material giving vows.
- Bible reading vows.
- Purity vows.
- People may even say, “God, if you get me out of this mess I promise that I am going to” or “if you heal _____, I will give to you 30 percent of my income instead of the usual 10 percent.” The temptation is to use a vow to bargain with God to see if you can get a better deal. But if you don’t keep the vow it is not a better deal.

When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow!

“do not be late” - אָחַר - achar – defer, loiter, procrastinate, delay, be late, tarry.

- God remembers these vows and holds us to them.
- What we have to remember is a vow is a voluntary promise, and if you voluntarily promise something to the Lord then it is required that you fulfill it and if you don't, it is considered sin, and sin has consequences.
- If you don't make a vow there is no sin.
- Bottom line:
 - Think before you enter God's house so you don't make a vow you can't keep.
 - Don't be careless with your words. God will hold you to them.
 - Don't be impulsive and rashly make a vow.

So what is Solomon saying?

Don't play games with God!

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It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

- Remember, a vow is voluntary. You don't have to make one.
- The choice is yours.

Example: Acts 5

Acts 4:32-5:11

32 And the congregation of those who believed were of **one heart and soul**; and not one of them **claimed** that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

37 and who **owned** a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?

4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well."

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

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- Careless words, reckless words, impulsive words, rash words, hasty words can result in the sin of breaking a vow.
- It will do no good to say that you made a mistake when the temple messenger comes to collect your vow.
- Your only option is to repent and seek forgiveness.
- The consequences for not paying a vow will affect your job, your business, your productivity.

Ps 90:17

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;
And confirm for us the work of our hands;
Yes, confirm the work of our hands.

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Rather, fear God.***

- Daydreams and babbling words share the same thing in common – they are empty and they are meaningless.
- “Fear God” says it all. No excess, careless, repetitive words here. Just a couple of concise, to the point, thought-through words – **“Fear God.”**
- **“Fear”** – like looking at Niagara Falls. I can marvel at it’s beauty but fear what it can do.



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- **“Fear”** – like looking at Niagara Falls. I can marvel at it’s beauty but fear what it can do.
- If you really fear God your words will be measured – just enough to say what is needed.