

## Ecclesiastes 5:7-12

In our last study of Ecclesiastes Chapter 5, we left off with verse 7. It says there, *For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities... It means it amounts to nothing... but fear thou God.* I want to look at that just for a moment if we might. I believe that, when we fear God, certain things take place, and we are to do it in a certain manner. In Psalm 115:11, we are to trust God completely according to that verse. It says, *Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.* God is our help and our shield when we fear Him.

And secondly, we need to experience God's forgiveness in reality. In Psalm 130:4 it says, *But there is forgiveness with thee... speaking of God... that thou mayest be feared.* I'm not talking about being feared that He's going to step on you with His foot and crush you. This is not the type of fear that's spoken of here. It's a reverential fear of knowing who God is and trusting Him, and that takes place preceding the moment that we get saved. There is a reverential fear that takes place. It's not that God's going to kill us or do something harmful to us that's the reason we get saved. It's because He loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross for us that we could be saved.

And we reverentially fear Him because He's the Creator. He's the One who made everything, and He's the One who keeps everything going. He keeps this world turning. He keeps the stars, the moon, the planets, and everything that we know of... He keeps those things in their places, and we need to reverentially fear him, not, once again, that He's going to step on us or kill us, but that we know who He is and we reverentially fear God because of who He is.

In Psalm 112:1, it talks about delighting in God's Word. It says, *Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.* When we fear the Lord reverentially, that sets the stage, if you would, for us to come to Him, faith-believing that He's able to save us. Because why? He is God. He is the One who can save for eternity, and no one else can do that.

And then we notice in Psalm 119:63 this goes beyond delighting in God's Word here. We are to obey it. Psalm 119:63 says, *I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13 says, *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* We're to do what God says, and this is really what man is supposed to do. Man is supposed to fear God and to do what God says for us to do.

In Proverbs 8:13, it talks about hating evil. *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate,* God says there.

And then we see that we're to steadfastly hope in God's loyal love. In Psalm 147:11, it says, *The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

And the second of these six elements that I've just read identifies true believers. Number two says experience God's forgiveness in reality, *But there is forgiveness,* it says in Psalm 130:4, *with thee that thou mayest be feared.*

We need to fear God out of love, and we need to love Him. He first loved us and we need to love Him because of this. He first loved us. He sent His Son to die on the cross for us, and we must trust Him as our Savior in order to go to Heaven. That's God's love, that He first loved us and He sent His Son to die for us on the cross. And Jesus died for us. Love Jesus. Know that He can save you, because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That's the reason we study through the Scriptures on this program during these studies. It's because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. It doesn't come from my words. It comes from the Word of God.

I trust today that you do know Him as your Savior. If not, you need to bow where you are. You can bow without even closing your eyes if you're driving in your car. It's simply saying, "Lord, I know I'm a sinner. I know I can't save myself. Lord, I know You love me so much that You sent Christ to die for me. I acknowledge my sin. I acknowledge that I'm wrong, and I acknowledge that you're right and I need to be saved. I need to trust Christ as my Savior, and I need to ask Him to come into my heart, and I'm doing that right now the best that I know how."

If you'll pray something like that and mean it in your heart, the Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. And if you call upon the name of the Lord right where you are... you don't have to do it audibly. You do it from your innermost being and say, "God, forgive me, a sinner. I want to be saved right now." If you'll do that, God says to as many as received Him gave He the power to become the sons of God. Ask Him to save you right now, and God will save you.

I want to move on here now in chapter 5 and verses 8-9. As we look at these verses, we see the injustice of men. In verse 8, the first part of that verse, we're going to read the whole verse here, it says, *If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter.* That's the first part of verse 8. In other words, don't marvel at oppression; it's going to happen. Oppression happens in this life. When you see the oppression of the poor, don't be amazed. It's going to happen.

And then when you see violent perversion of justice and righteousness, don't be ashamed. Don't be amazed at the oppression of the poor, and don't be amazed at the violent perversion of justice and righteousness. That happens, as well.

In the rest of that verse and verse 9 it says, *for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. <sup>9</sup>Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.* I believe what the rest of verse 8 is saying and verse 9 is saying, everyone is accountable. We are accountable and high officials must answer to the even higher officials, according to verse 8. Well, who are the higher officials? Romans 13:1 says, *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

The highest power, of course, is God, but we're to do what God has set up. He has set up human government, and as such, we are to give... I don't want to say "homage." I'm saying that we are accountable. We don't bow down to the government, but we are accountable to those who have rule over us as policemen and so forth. We're not to break the law. Civil government was ordained of

God. There would be chaos if that weren't the fact.

As we look on here, as the profit of the land is for all, even the king is provided for and served by the field. Everybody eats the same. Everybody gets their food from the same place. It comes from the field. Contrary to popular belief, it doesn't start in the grocery store; it starts in the field. Somebody has to raise or has to harvest and plant and bring forth those things that go in cans in the store and whatever else, but everything comes from God and everybody eats the same. People have to depend upon the Lord.

In Matthew 5:45 it says, *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

So don't marvel that people pervert justice and judgment, and don't marvel that there's oppression of the poor. Don't marvel and don't be ashamed of the violent perversion of justice and righteousness. Remember, everybody's the same, and as long as mankind is here until Jesus comes back, we're going to see problems in this world, but there's one way that we can ease those problems in our life; that's to receive Christ as Savior. And as a Christian, we need to trust the Lord. Just as we trusted Him to save us, we need to trust Him with our everyday life, the things that go on in our lives.

As we look on now in chapter 5, verses 10-17, especially in verses 10-12, but as we look at verses 10-17, we see the vanity of riches. And then in verses 10-12, it tells us something.

*<sup>10</sup>He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. <sup>11</sup>When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof,*

*saving the beholding of them with their eyes? <sup>12</sup>The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.*

There's so much in those verses that I just read. I want you to notice that in those verses riches do not satisfy. In verse 10, it talks about he who loves silver and riches will not be satisfied with increase. They want more and more, and as a person gets more and more wealth, the appetite for more grows. They're never satisfied. The only profit or satisfaction the greedy person gets is to look at what they have. I've collected a few old coins in my time, and I have a few old coins. Do you know what pleasure I get out of those? I don't take them to the store and spend them. I don't do this or that with them. Every now and then, I'll get them out and look at them. Well, that's primarily what it's saying here about the greedy person.

Now, I don't consider myself greedy. I consider myself one who has saved an old coin just to look at it. But these people, they keep getting and getting and getting and they're never satisfied. My old coin collection days are over with. I don't collect coins anymore, and I'm not saying if you do you're wrong. I'm simply saying that the rich want to get richer and they want to get more and more and more because they are greedy. Not all rich people are like that, but the person who works for what he gets sleeps well. But the person who has need of nothing does not sleep well, because he worries about losing what he has or about getting more, according to verse 12.

As we look on now in verses 13-17, I'm going to read this and we'll close with this today. Riches are perishable, according to these verses. It says in verse 13 down through 17, *<sup>13</sup>There is a sore evil which I have seen under*

*the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. <sup>14</sup>But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. <sup>15</sup>As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup>And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? <sup>17</sup>All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.*

Join me the next time as we continue our study in the book of Ecclesiastes. Trust Jesus as your Savior and as a saved person, live for Him today, trusting Him to take care of your life.

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