

“Living In the Presence of God”

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

New Hope Community Church

February 25th, 2018

A. How We Are to Approach God (1)

1. We come in an attitude of **honest** humility (1a)
 - Consider what Jesus rejected: **hypocrisy**
 - Consider what David declared: God desires **truth**
‘Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being’ (Ps 51:6,17)
2. We come with a desire to **hear** from God (1b)
‘But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.’ (Is 66:1.2)

B. How Are We to Speak to God (2-6)

1. Our words should not be **careless** (2a)
 - **Boastful** words -----
 - **Faithless** words -----
 - **Unloving** words -----
 - ▶ God, being present, **hears** all!
2. Our words should not be **many** (2b) Pr 10:19
▶ God, being above, **knows** all!
3. Our words should not reflect **thoughtlessness** (3) Is 64:4
▶ God, being all wise, invites us to quietly **wait** before Him
4. Our words should not reflect **insincerity** (4,5)
▶ God, being holy, is not to be **mocked** (Ga 6:7)

C. How Are We to Relate to God (6,7)

1. God is not well **served** by empty words (6a)
 - Genuine words can reveal a heart of belief (R 10:9,10)
 - False words can reveal a heart of unbelief (Mt 12:34b-36)
2. God is actually **angered** by careless words (6b,7a)
3. God is to be approached in reverent **awe** (7b)
 - In awe of the **disparity** between His character and mine
 - In awe of His supreme **authority** over me
 - In awe of His sacrificial **love** for me

Reflection Where does fear of & familiarity with God meet?

- We **begin** with fear
- We **enter** into love
- We are **perfected** in love which supersedes the rule of fear

1 John 4:17,18

Life Group Meeting

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
2. We are to “guard our steps” as we approach the Living God. How do you think this command should affect the way that we approach Sunday worship?
3. We are commanded to “draw near to listen” as we enter into the house of God. God wants us to hear from Him! How often would you say that you hear from God as you attend church — weekly, monthly, annually?
4. Share some examples of specific times you know that God spoke to you as you came to church to hear from Him.
5. Verse 2 cautions us about careless words in the presence of God. Does this cause you to be hesitant to speak to God as you attend church? Why, or why not?
6. Verse 4 speaks of vowing to God. What would cause you to make a vow to God? What would keep you from doing so? Is there ever a time that we should make a vow, or a very strong commitment to God? What might that look like?
7. As you come to worship on Sundays, does the thought of the “fear of God” ever enter into your mind? Why, or why not?
8. On Sunday, the question was posed to the congregation, “Where do fear of God and familiarity with God meet?” Share your thoughts on this.
9. Read I John 4:17,18 together and discuss how this enters into the discussion of fearing God vs. being familiar with God.
10. Pray together for our gatherings on Sunday mornings as a church family — that these would be times when we truly meet with God, hear from Him, grow in our awe of Him, increase in our devotion to Him.