

Rash Words & Foolish Vows

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

- I. **GOING TO CHURCH** (Ps 14 & 15; Heb 10:25)—Corporate worship
 - A. **Guard Your Steps.** (1a)—*prepare; think about what you're doing*
 1. **Where you are going**—the House of the LORD
 2. **Why you are going**—to worship God; to hear God's Word; to seek His blessing
 3. The **Manner** in which you are approaching—your demeanor
 - B. **Draw Near to Listen.** (1b; Hab 2:20)—*check your attitude*
 1. **Humble**
 2. **Attentive**
 - C. **Don't Offer the Sacrifice of Fools.** (Isa 1:10-17)
 1. **Don't BE a fool.** (Ps 14:1-2; Heb 11:6) come in faith, take God seriously
 2. **Examine your heart.** (1c)
 - a. **Hypocrisy** (1 Sam 15:22) Your life not in keeping with your religious devotion
 - b. **Formalism** (Isa 1:13 & 29:13; 2 Tim 3:5; 1 Cor 13:1-3) Empty ritual, manmade traditions without actually knowing or caring to know God Himself.
 - c. **Irreverence** (2b) Failing to recognize and act in accordance with the awesome holiness of God
 3. **Don't talk too much.** (2,3,7; Job 23:4; Mat 6:7)

II. **MAKING A VOW** (4-6; Deut 23:21-23; Acts 5:1-11)—promise to God or to someone else in His name, making Him your witness

A. **Legitimate Expression of Worship** (Deut 6:13; 10:20) *proclaims your God, the one you consider worthy of reverence and fear*

B. **Certain Qualifications for Vows**

1. It is **voluntary**. (5)—a gift or consecration that is not assumed or required

2. It is **considered**. (2, 6)—you have thought about it, mulled it over;

a. Don't be **rash**. (Jud 11:30)—not spontaneous or ill-advised

b. **Make sure you have the ability**. Don't overestimate your prospects or strength in the future

3. You **must pay it**. (4; Ps 15:4)—all of it, promptly

III. **FEARING GOD** (7)—stand in awe of God; it all comes down to this

A. **There IS a God**. *He is real.*

B. **He is in Heaven**. *He is holy.*

C. **He is a Person**. *He is relational.*

1. **He hears** (2)—what you say and what you *think*

2. **He can be offended**. (4b,6)—presumption chooses to sin against God (rather than trouble yourself or offend someone else), assuming/demanding that He will forgive you—shows what you really think of Him

3. **He will hold you accountable**. (6c)

D. **He is worthy of fear**. (Prov 1:7; 9:10; 14:27; 29:25; Isa 8:12-13; Ps 19:4, 9). The fear of God is what orders our lives and makes life worth living. Never invoke the name of your God lightly.

LISTEN TO “Trisagion” (Fernando Ortega). <https://youtu.be/Ad9fZ72lbVg>