

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Watch Your Step* (Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)

**Summary:** Fear God to drive the hypocrisy out of your life. Life without God is vanity.

### **1. Be quiet before God, and listen (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3)**

- Eccl 5:1 instructs you to guard your steps as you go to worship, to be circumspect so that you do not trip. Can you think of one area of your life that needs to be guarded? What action will you take to guard how you approach worship to avoid hypocrisy?
- Knowing that God desires worship from the heart, how can you cultivate a greater heart for God? Will you begin today?
- To fear God is to trust God. It is to rely on His word and not your own. What do you fear in life? How does a focus on the person and work of Christ grow your trust in God and decrease your trust in other things?
- Eccl 5:2 instructs that a healthy fear of God demands that you speak less because of who God is. How does James 1:26 describe the person who cannot control his speech? What are areas that you tend to talk too much? How can a greater fear of (trust in) God encourage you to speak less and listen more?
- If you attempt to draw near to God to listen with no intent to change, then you fail to understand that God gives His word to change you. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and James 1:23 both reveal that “to listen” includes hearing and understanding with the purpose of obedience. How could speaking less encourage you to greater obedience?

### **2. Speak to God with an undivided heart (Ecclesiastes 5:4-7)**

- Ecclesiastes 5 defines a fool as one who worships as a hypocrite (v. 1), uses lots of words (v. 3), and does not keep his promises to God (v. 4). Are there times that you have promised God that you would do something or change in a certain way but later did not follow through? How can you guard against that in the future?
- Ecclesiastes paints a hopeless picture of life under the sun—life apart from God. Read Heb 10:19-25. List twenty observations about the person and work of Christ and what you have in Christ. What are five responses to these truths commanded in this passage? How can you apply these in your everyday life? How can you apply these as you approach worship? How does this passage respond to Solomon’s hopeless view of life under the sun?