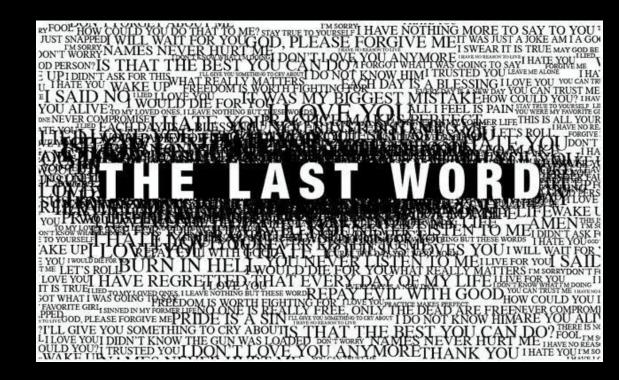


23/10/2016

#### Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.



Approaching God lightly does not avoid futility



#### Key to the passage

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God (5:1a)

Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools (5:b) – praise

Do not be quick with your mouth (5:2) – prayer

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfil it (5:-7a) - promises

Fear God (5:7b)

### The wisdom of Mr. and Mrs. Beaver



He's a Lion!

# Consuming Fire

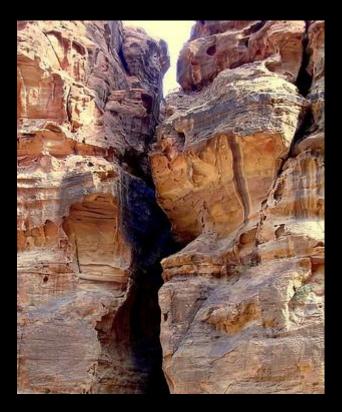


# Praise as listening (5:1b)



### Rock of Ages (Augustus Toplady)

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Saviour, or I die!



#### Prayer as silence (5:2-3)

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.

# Keep your promise...and quick! (5:4-7a)



### Fear God (5:7b)



#### So?

- Listen before speaking
- Love God by worship not talking
- If you promise, fulfil...and fast
- Fear God, really Fear God!