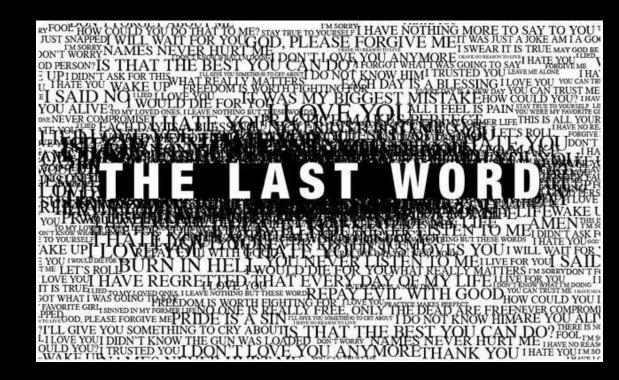


23/10/2016

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

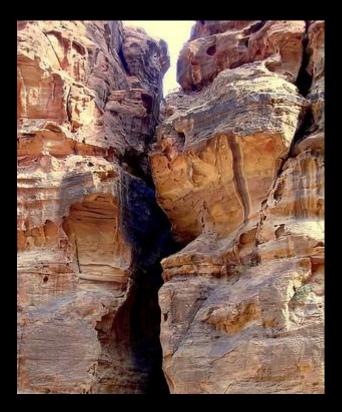


Praise as listening (5:1b)



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!



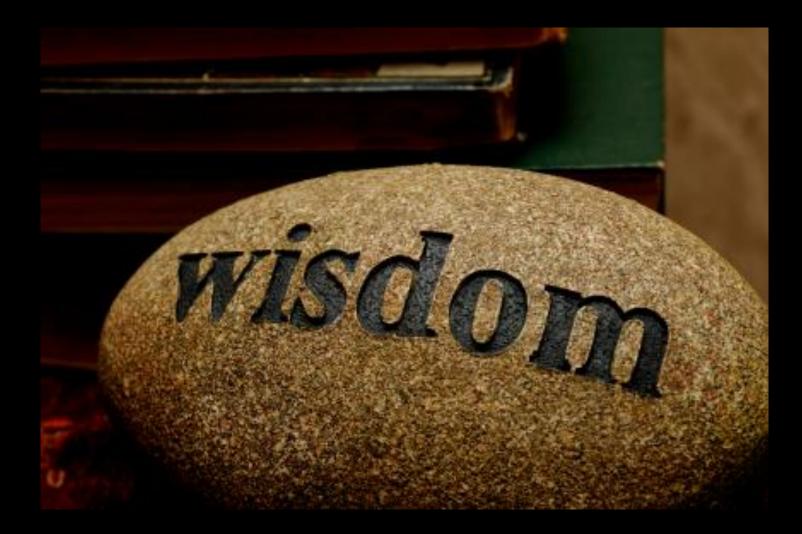
Prayer as silence (5:2-3)

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!