

Solomon's Secret part 4

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ecclesiastes 5.

B. The righteous seem to suffer much when the unrighteous seem to live without many troubles. (Psalm 73)

C. Solomon tells us how to deal with the depravity of man.

II. One must learn to fear God.

A. One must guard his steps when he enters into the Temple of God.

B. In the New Testament, the Temple of God is no longer a building—believers gathered together are the house of God wherever they are. (Hebrews 9:8)

C. How to learn of God in the house of God.

1. Guard your steps—protect yourself from distractions or dangers.

a. Heal broken relationships.

b. The divine life comes from fellowship with God.

1) Take time to meet God.

2) Everything must center on God.

3) Seek a spirit of humility.

c. Listen carefully to the Scripture because it teaches reality.

d. Do not act mechanically. God hates phony worship. (Isaiah 1)

2. Watch your words.

a. This has to do with the temptation to complain at what God sends.

b. Complaining arises from fantasy.

c. The Scripture teaches that we are to be thankful in everything because we do not deserve anything.

d. One must keep his promises to God.

III. Do not give up on government.

A. We are not to be bitter about injustice because God has the instruments to correct this.
(Romans 13)

B. Much correction of violence does happen through government.

C. Even if the highest form of government deals unjustly, God has appointed a time when He will correct this.

D. Bad government is better than no government at all.

IV. Money is not to be trusted to solve problems.

A. Money does not satisfy.

B. When one gets rich, parasites begin to abound.

C. Other responsibilities accompany wealth.

D. Money can be lost.

E. No one can survive death.

V. Conclusion.

A. Life must be taken from God's hand moment by moment.

B. Life becomes an adventure when one learns to walk with God in this way.

Application questions:

1. What is the house of God in the New Testament? What steps should be shown to revere God in this "place?"

2. Why should Christians support their government even in many cases that it does things contrary to its values?

3. Which problem with money resonates the most with you? What advice would you give about money regarding this?
