

Reverence for the Presence of God - Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
Maple Hill Church of Christ – July 8, 2012

Approaching God is a serious matter

- I Samuel 15:22
- Proverbs 15:8
- Hebrews 12:28-29

Using a physical instruction to represent a spiritual idea.

How does this phrase apply to today?

- John 4:19-21
- Acts 8:3

¹ **Guard your steps** when you go to the **house of God**. To **draw near to listen** is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, **for they do not know that they are doing evil.**

James 1:19-21
 - Listen First
 - Speak Second

The fool is oblivious to his position before God.

Matt 6:7
 Luke 18:9-14

² Be not **rash** with your mouth, nor let your heart be **hasty** to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

What does the presence of "many words" indicate?

³ For a **dream** comes with much business, and a fool's voice with **many words**.

The first phrase illustrates the second

Judges 11:29-40

⁴ When you **vow a vow to God**, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

II Peter 2:20-23

⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

What vows or commitments do we make before God?

מלאך - mal'āk

-Often "angel"
 -Lev 5:4-5
 -Rev 2:1

⁶ Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the **messenger** that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

⁷ For when **dreams** increase and **words** grow many, there is vanity; but **God is the one you must fear.**

Questions to Consider:

1. When are we in the presence of God?
 (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Matthew 18:20; Acts 17:24)
2. Through what avenue(s) do we approach God?
 (II Tim 3:14-17, Matt 6:5-15, Psalm 100:1-2, John 4:23-24)
3. Why do we approach God?
 (Isaiah 40:28-31; Eph 2:1-10; I Cor 6:20; II Tim 3:14-17; Heb 4:16)
4. How will we approach God if we truly have the proper regard for Him?
 (I Sam 1:12-15; Luke 18:9-14; Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:15; James 1:19-21)
5. What happens when we lose our reverence for God?