

Pay Your Vows!

by Wayne Goff

A vow is made *voluntarily* by one who wishes to honor God. Therefore if one makes a vow to God, he is expected to keep it. Unfortunately among the ancient Hebrews, breaking vows became all too common and caused much disrespect by the nations.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 states *"When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed — better not to vow than to vow and not pay."* This is common sense instruction. Believers, of all people, should be people of their word! What is the value of making a vow only to find a dozen ways to avoid doing it? Well, some people, in the midst of an emotional frenzy will make some promise which they will later regret when their adrenaline runs out. Others are about as unstable as water and can never be trusted to keep their word. Have you ever known someone who makes constant promises which you know from experience he will never keep? If so, then you see what I mean.

Breaking a promise to a man is one thing, but when you break your promise to God, then you have absolutely sinned! God does not take it lightly.

Those who obeyed the gospel made a vow to God to dedicate their entire lives to His will in obedience. When such a one departs the faith, he has broken his vow. *"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"* (1 Corinthians 6:20). I would hate to stand before God on the Judgment Day having broken my vow to glorify God in my body and my spirit.

Wedding vows have often been broken when a mate becomes unfaithful to his partner. God is the silent, third Person in any wedding, and expects each person to keep that vow! What God has joined together man is not to separate (Matthew 19:6). But too many take their vows lightly and quickly break them when the going gets tough, or when a more attractive(?) person comes along. If you don't plan on keeping your vows, then just never make them!

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