

# THE OLD PATHS

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## “Vowing A Vow To God”

Jarrod Jacobs

**S**olomon wrote long ago: *“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin ...”* (Ecc. 5:2-6).

I am sure we have read this passage many times. Perhaps we have heard someone read this passage in the context of a wedding, where two people vow their lives to one another before God. They certainly need to keep their vows, and no doubt, there is application to be made from Ecclesiastes five in that area of life (Matt. 19:4-6). At the same time, the context of Ecclesiastes five is focused specifically on what happens when one worships God (v. 1). This person needs to be reverent and cautious when he worships God. When he vows to God, he must be ready to “pay” or fulfill what he promised.

What has this to do with us? Put simply, we today also make vows to God. Perhaps we have not thought about it in this way, but we have made vows to God, and it is incumbent upon us to keep them! Let us look at two areas of life where Christians have made vows to God.

### Baptism

If you are a Christian, then you made a vow to God when you were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Baptism is more than just getting the body wet (I Pet. 3:21). When we are baptized, we are taught that our baptism symbolizes Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-6, 16-18). Through baptism, we are saved and added to the Lord’s

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church (Acts 2:38-47). At the same time, when we are baptized, we are making a covenant, or promise to God to be faithful to Him (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10). Baptism changes our relationship before God, and in this change, we are devoting our lives to God for the rest of our days (Rom. 12:1-2)! Therefore, when we vow this vow, we need to make sure and “pay” it! When folks are unfaithful to God, they are essentially refusing to pay what they promised! God sees this, and will hold us accountable if we fall away (Heb. 6:4-6, 10:38, 12:15; II Pet. 3:17).

## Worship

Another time wherein we vow vows to God is in our worship. Just as Solomon said that the folks in the Old Testament days needed to be cautious when they vowed a vow in worship, so also, we need to be cautious when we vow to God in our worship! When do we vow vows to God? One time this happens is when we sing songs to God. Are we aware that we are vowing things to God when we sing? In our songbook, (Hymns For Worship) I counted no less than thirty-eight songs that contain vows to God! Have we been faithful to keep our promises? Brethren, as has been said in the past, we need to be mindful of what we are singing (Jn. 4:24)! Let us not take this aspect of our worship lightly!

### We Are Making Vows To God When We Sing!

#### Some songs containing vows to God:

- ✓ “I Will Pray” (#59)
- ✓ The chorus of “I’ll Be A Friend To Jesus” (#121)
- ✓ “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (#146)
- ✓ “I Am Resolved” (#325)
- ✓ “I Surrender All” (#332)
- ✓ The chorus of “If Jesus Goes With Me” (#356)
- ✓ The chorus of “I’ll Never Forsake My Lord” (#484)
- ✓ The chorus of “Where He Leads, I’ll Follow” (#498)
- ✓ The chorus of “I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord” (#504)
- ✓ The chorus of “Living For Jesus” (#552)
- ✓ “More Like The Master” (#560)
- ✓ “I Will Sing Of The Mercies Of The Lord” (#660)

... and twenty-six more songs with vows contained in certain verses!!

Source: Hymns For Worship

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Vowing vows is serious business! Worship is not a mindless exercise wherein we go through our “checklist” and go home. No doubt this principle is implied when Jesus says “*true worshippers*” worship “*in spirit and in truth*” (Jn. 4:23-24)! We need to be engaged in worship and aware of what we are promising God week-by-week.

## Are you keeping the vows you have made to God?

### Is God Laughing At You?

Joel Raulerson

**D**id you know there is a passage in the Bible that says God laughs at people? In Psalm 2:1-4, we read, “*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."* ***He who sits in the heavens laughs***; the Lord holds them in derision.”

Can you imagine a colony of ants plotting to destroy an adult with their power? The notion of that would seem comedic to us. To think that creatures so small in size and power compared to us would think they could overthrow us. This must be how it seems to God when He sees mankind trying to plot against Him! Time and time again, humanity thinks they know better than God. God says He, “*holds such people in derision.*” This means that He will make the people a laughingstock for their foolish notions. After God laughs at their crazy plot, He will then get the last laugh by deriding them, scorning them, and causing them to stagger at His great power and wisdom. God says what men do is vanity. It is a waste of time, because it is impossible to get the best of Him. That is why He sits in the heavens and laughs at men’s foolishness.

While God can laugh at mankind, mankind cannot mock God. In Galatians 6:7-8, Paul writes, “*Do not be deceived: **God is not mocked**, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*” If mankind attempts to mock God and revile Him, they will receive what is coming to them. Some have tried to mock God by refusing to follow His commands. However, man’s

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disobedience does not change the truth, nor does it belittle what God's word teaches. It remains just as true and as powerful as ever (Heb. 4:12).

The ultimate result of our disobedience will be that God laughs at our foolish attempts to defy Him. Do you think that your ways are better than God's? Do you think that you have a better plan for your life than God does? Is God laughing at you? If you're not following His word, He just might be.



## Spotlight On A Bible Verse: Acts 4:12

***“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*** This verse is the end of a larger thought wherein Peter defended himself before the Sanhedrin for healing the lame man and preaching Christ (Acts 3). The Sanhedrin wanted to know what authority granted these men the right to heal the lame man (Acts 4:7). Acts 4:9-12 is the full answer. Verse 12 reminds us that salvation comes by no other “name” or authority than Christ! If anyone is to be saved, we will do it through the authority of Christ or not at all (Jn. 14:6; Col. 3:17). Buddha, Shinto, Mohammed, Confucius, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Aimee Semple McPherson, and anyone else has no authority on earth (Matt. 28:18). We will be saved by the teaching and authority of the Lord, or we will not be saved! It is as simple as that!

– Jarrod Jacobs



**“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”**

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**Website:** <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>

**Times Of Services...**

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**“The Ancient Landmark”** Radio Program airs Mon-Fri on 99.9 FM, WXMZ (10:30-11:00 AM) & 101.5 FM, WLBQ (5:30-6:00 AM)

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[www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994)

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