



Meaningful and Meaningless Worship

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7, Exodus 3:1-6

Guard Your Steps

- **As Solomon observed the temple and the people who came through it, he realized that some did not take worship seriously.**
- **People believed that the spirit of God physically lived within the temple.**
- **Do we expect to meet God when we come to church?**
- **Solomon told the people that when they went into the temple, they were going into the very presence of God.**

Listen

- **Many modern-day churches are modeled after the Old Testament temple system.**
- **To listen is not just to hear with your ears but to hear with your heart, and then apply it.**
- **In the Old Testament, the term fool is an individual who lacks spiritual intelligence.**
- **A fool or a cheater was someone who had an acceptable animal but chose to give something less to the Lord.**
- **We must be aware that we should not offer empty sacrifices, but we should offer the sacrifice of ourselves.**

Prayer

- Pagan people believed when they prayed the more words they offered in their prayer, the more likely the god or goddess would hear their prayers.
- Solomon warned that we should hold our tongue a bit when we pray.
- In Solomon's time there was a wall between the people and God.
- Today, we can have a conversational relationship with God.
- We still need to guard our words because, as humans, we tend to speak a lot.
- God already knows what we need before we ask, so we do not have to babble on and on.

Vows

- **A vow is a promise to God.**
- **Vows were common in the temple system during Old Testament times.**
- **People took vows seriously, because they knew that they had to keep them.**
- **Today we do not take vows seriously, because if we break them, who really cares.**
- **Baptism is a vow to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.**
- **We are all guilty of making empty promises, which are known as the sacrifice of fools.**

Conclusion

- **To correct our view of worship, we need to stand in awe of God.**
- **When we stand in awe of God, other things do not become issues anymore.**
- **When we come to church, we should know that we are coming into the presence of God.**
- **Standing firm means that when we come to church our minds should not be wandering.**
- **When we stand in awe of God, our prayers take on more substance.**