

# Avoiding Foolish Worship!

## Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

# Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

*“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God and draw near to hear rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they do evil.”*

*Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.”*

# What We Learn From Solomon

- If you are going to worship God, make sure you do it right.
- There is therefore a right way and a wrong way to worship God, so worship prudently  
*“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” Proverbs 14:12*
- He says to go draw near to hear (or listen), rather than offer up the sacrifice of *fools, who do not know that they do evil. In other words, know what God requires!*
- So the right way to worship is the way of the wise, and the wrong way to worship is the way of fools

# What Is The Wrong Way To Worship? (What is The Way Of Fools?)

## The First Two Verses Tell Us

- Foolish worshippers do not even know that they do wrong in worship (**verse 1, “they do not know that they do evil”**)
- They are impulsive and hasty, but not scriptural in what they say; they speak without thinking (Remember Peter’s impulsive speech in Matthew 17:1-5, with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration)  
**1Peter 4:11, “If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.” NIV**
- Foolish worshippers say a lot (and are rash/quick to speak) but don’t rightly divide God’s word, **2Timothy 2:15, Acts 17:11**

# Solomon Says That Fools Don't Know That They Do Wrong In Their Worship!

## Two Reminders

Nadab and Abihu(sons of Aaron the High Priest)

Leviticus 10

- They had priestly jobs in the tabernacle, and one of their jobs was to offer up incense to God at the altar of incense in the tabernacle (**according to the explicit instructions given by God**)
- Rather than going by God's instructions and details, they decided to *improvise or improve on God's instructions!*  
*“And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.”*

*Leviticus 10:2*

# The Second Reminder Is The Story of King Uzziah

- King Uzziah started out as a fairly righteous man as king but as time passed, he became more successful and powerful
- He even decided that he didn't need the Levitical priests to perform worship for him as God had instructed
- He believed that as king, he had the right to go into the Temple and offer incense at the incense altar himself (*improvise or improve*)
- On the day he did that, 2Kings 15:5 says that "***The Lord afflicted him with leprosy until the day he died.***"
- King Uzziah offered the sacrifice of fools to God

God has set things up in The New Testament by his instructions and we do not believe it is our place to *improve or improvise on God's instructions*

- Some believe that the church of the New Testament was a primitive thing and the church has to change its instructions to keep up with the times
- That's one reason churches of today will tinker with things
- They feel they are entitled, like Uzziah, to do what they want
- They believe they are smart enough to improve God's things

# Did You Know?

- That when you were baptized into Christ and became a Christian, the Bible says that you became a Priest? (1Peter 2:9)
- Did you know that when you became a Christian, you also became a Saint? (Romans 1:7)
- Some denominations say “*no, no, no, you may be a Christian, but you have to do a lot more to be a Saint or a Priest!*”
- People, that is just not scriptural!



# Did You Know?

- That when you observe the communion in worship, you re-enact the original communion, 1Corinthians 11:23
- When you take the Lord's supper, you are symbolically eating with the Lord. 1Corinthians 10:16
- This was a central part of New Testament Worship, Acts 20:7
- Some denominations say it breaks the flow of the service. (Really?) There is no adequate flow of the service until you eat with Jesus

# Why Would A Denomination Redefine Biblical Terminology and Practices?

- Obviously, they feel that they have “the right to ‘improve’ on God’s instructions”
- I believe that when you begin to substitute your own rules, terminology, and meaning for scriptural words and practices in worship, you usurp the worship, especially of those who want to honor God in their worship
- The doctrine and commandments of men is termed vain worship by Jesus Himself (Matthew 15:7-8)

# Ecclesiastes 5:2

*“Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few.”*

- Solomon says don't be quick in assuming that in religion, God likes what you do
- Solomon basically says God's in heaven and you are not
- He is God and you are not
- He is bigger than you and I
- He is smarter than you and I
- We as human beings tend to forget that
- Since this is God's worship, He gets to call the shots and we don't

# Ecclesiastes 5:1

***“Walk prudently WHEN YOU GO TO THE HOUSE OF GOD.”***

- **One problem that many church goers have, is that we have a tendency to “compartmentalize God”**
- **For many, GOD only shows up at church. So we wear the right clothes, and say the right words on Sunday morning. Then after Sunday morning service until next time, we feel like we are on our own, God never seriously entering our mind or our actions**
- **For many church goers, the church is sacred, and everywhere else is secular**

**Do You Remember Where Moses Was in Exodus Chapter 3, When God Told Him To Take Off His Shoes, For The Place Where He Was Standing Was Holy Ground(what tabernacle or building)???**

***He Was On The Side Of A Mountain In Front Of A Bush!***

**(He had nobody to impress; it was just God and him)**

***Godly Worship and True  
Worship Is Where You And I  
Want To Be In God's Presence  
So Much That A Building Can't  
Hold Him With Us!***

***(Sunday morning is not enough time with  
God. We also want him at work, school,  
home, on vacation, quiet time, etc.)***

# The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

*Acts 15:7*

Believe the Gospel

*Acts 15:7*

Repent of Sins

*Acts 17:30*

Confess Christ

*Acts 8:37*

Be Baptized

*Acts 8:38*