

**Solomon now turned to behold worshipers of God; those who went to the House of God to meet with God. Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**

The preacher begins Chapter 5 by admonishing us as worshipers of God on the importance of FIRST preparing ourselves to meet with God before we cross the threshold of the door into His presence.

For each of us, brethren, on the Lord's Day, or even for the Wednesday evening service, we must ask ourselves, how do I arrive at the church meeting place? What is my mind set upon? What am I thinking? Where is my heart? Do you and I realize every time I come to a church service that I "PERSONALLY" coming to appear before God?

Solomon therefore warns us all as professing Christians and worshipers of God: Prepare yourself!

**"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God"**

This is like Solomon telling us all: "watch your step"; make sure you are careful and conscientious toward God and the things of God before you take that very important STEP into God's presence!

Make sure you are on good spiritual footing lest you stumble; guard your heart with all diligence so as not to offend or dishonor God. Enter carefully and prudently. *Psalm 100*

*No matter how bad your day was; no matter how many times you stumbled and tripped and fell into sin; don't trip and fall when you take THIS STEP; when you are coming into the presence of God. Isaiah 57:15, 66:1-2, Psalm 138:6, 34:18, 51:17, Matthew 5:3-4*

What you receive from God (when you come to the church gathering) is directly linked to how you entered the gathering. The preacher's warning is that we NEVER come to the church gathering carelessly, with unprepared hearts and unconfessed sins; with our minds on the world and on ourselves and our own selfish and self-serving interests and desires rather than on God. We must realize that the Spirit of God is in our midst!

**In fact, we ought to consider Moses' experience when God appeared to Him in the desert; when he saw and approached the burning bush, (Exodus 3:5)**

God called to Moses out of the burning bush that was not consumed and told him draw not nigh; don't come any closer Moses, and take off your shoes; you are standing on the SAME GROUND that I am standing on; that makes it HOLY GROUND!

My wife always tells me, when I am coming in the back door; take off your shoes! Why? Shoes bring dirt into the house!

Well, spiritually speaking; we should be very careful about how we come to appear before God; (how we enter into His presence); we shouldn't want to bring any sin or filth or impure thoughts into the gathering of the saints; we MUST to come into the presence of God with clean and sanctified hearts! Leviticus 10:1-3

Nadab and Abihu carelessly took up their sensors with went into the presence of God and offered strange fire! In their pride and arrogance, they disrespected God by dishonoring His expressed commands concerning their priestly duties. They offered that which God commanded them NOT to offer!

*(V3): "I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me". Exodus 19:22*

In Christ, we are a spiritual priesthood: *1 Peter 2:5, 9.*

*When we pick up God's Word to come to appear before God, let us NEVER come carelessly or with unprepared hearts. Our spiritual sacrifices must be honoring to God. Romans 12:1-2; so first and foremost, PREPARE your heart, and then:*

**Specifically: “Be more ready to hear than to give or offer up the sacrifice of fools”**

Come to the gathering prayerfully desiring to hear what the Lord would command you for this day. Gather like those that were with the Centurion Cornelius:

*“Now therefore we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God”*

TO HEAR: Means to hearken or hear with attention, and with the intent of obeying.

We are here tonight to “pay attention to God” and to hear what He will command us!

We OUGHT ALL to have a very HIGH view of God!

In our text, Qoheleth writes that worshipers are to “be more ready to hear” than to give or to offer the sacrifice of fools.

**What is “the sacrifice of fools”? Proverbs 15:8**

It is coming into the presence of God with a hypocrite’s heart; thinking to yourself that God does not see your hypocrisy and that you are pretending before His very face!

*Isaiah 1:10-15, Matthew 15:7-9, James 1:22-24,*

The fool who does this, never considering what they are doing; who they are doing it to; who they are offending! *Hosea 7:1-2*