

"When You Go To The House of God"

Introduction: "_____ may seep into religious life just as much as in any other sphere, maybe even more so" (MacDonald).

- I. Watch Your _____ (Eccl. 5:1)
- A. The church is called the _____ (1 Tim. 3:15).
 - B. When we go to God's house we must _____ about how important it really is; don't let it become a thoughtless activity we just do (Prov. 4:26).
 - C. _____ yourself for worship; how many people come to church with unprepared hearts.
 - D. "Hear" carries the idea of _____.
 - E. There is no _____ for obedience (1 Sam. 15:12-23).
 - F. "Offerings in the hands without obedient faith in the heart become 'the sacrifice of fools,' because only a fool thinks he can _____ God" (Wiersbe) (Gal. 6:7).
 - G. There are no longer any _____ sacrifices (Heb. 10:1-14), but there still are some sacrifices we are supposed to give to God (Ps. 51:17; 141:1-2; Ro. 12:1-2; 15:16; Phil. 4:8; Heb. 13:15-16).
- II. Guard Your _____ (Eccl. 5:2-3)
- A. "The presence of the Almighty is no place for precipitate or compulsive _____ (Jas. 1:19).
 - B. Don't just think before you speak, but think _____.
 - C. Don't just speak from the heart, but speak from a _____ heart.
 - D. "Those that know least talk _____" (Henry).
 - E. Don't be an "all-talk" _____ (Matt. 15:8).
 - F. When talking to God, choose your words _____ (Matt. 6:7; 1 Cor. 14:15).
 - G. Hyperactive minds produce dreams, and hyperactive mouths produce _____ words (Prov. 10:19).
- III. Keep Your _____ (Eccl. 5:4-7)
- A. Beware of making promises to _____--especially ones made impulsively (Judges 11:30-40).
 - B. Once you do make a promise to the Lord you _____ keep it (Acts 5:1-5; Ps. 15:4; Josh. 10:6-7).
 - C. Don't try to strike _____ with God—"If you deliver me I will..."
 - D. To _____ is to disobey.
 - E. Don't trust your _____ either; trust God's Word (Jer. 23:25-28).

Conclusion: "He watched the worshipers come and go, praising God, praying, sacrificing, and making vows. He noted that many of them were not at all sincere in their worship, and they left the sacred precincts in worse spiritual condition than when they had entered. *The worship of God is the highest ministry of the church, and must come from devoted hearts and yielded wills*" (Wiersbe).