

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO SOLOMON ECC. 5:1-7

Elements of Christian worship:

- Public Reading of Scripture
- Teaching & preaching of Scripture
- Praying of Scripture
- Singing of Scripture
- Giving according to Scripture
- The Lord's Supper & Baptism according to Scripture

Accidents of Christian worship:

What does Solomon / Scripture tell us?

1. Slow down – in worship!

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 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.**

What question concerning worship seems to escape most people?

Solomon:

Keep thy foot...

Exodus 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Joshua 5:15 And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in his holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence before him.

Zephaniah 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: For the day of the LORD is at hand: For the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid his guests.

Zechariah 2:13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: For he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Be not rash with thy mouth

The sacrifice of fools:

Psalm 40:6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; Mine ears hast thou opened: Burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

What is the sacrifice of fools?

- Sacrifices to gain salvation
- Sacrifices to help God out → as if He needed something
- Sacrifices to check the boxes

Biblical sacrifices in any age are only an expression of love & gratitude

2. Hear more – in worship!

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Keep (שמר) thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear (לשמע), than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

Tucked away in this verse is the center of Biblical worship...and frankly, a relationship with God.

It starts, continues, and ends with

Deuteronomy 6:4 **Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

שמע ישראל יהוה אחד יהוה אחד יהוה אחד

John 10:27 My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **heareth** my word, and **believeth** on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

We, obviously, can hear God's word in several ways:

- Reading scripture
- Praying scripture
- Singing scripture
- Sharing scripture

Deuteronomy 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: **Deuteronomy 17:19** And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to **reading**, to **exhortation**, to **doctrine**.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is **he** that readeth, and **they** that hear the words of this prophecy, **and keep** those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, That I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Psalms 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight And my counsellors.

Psalms 119:92 Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. **Nehemiah 8:2** And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

Nehemiah 8:3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Nehemiah 8:4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood ...

Nehemiah 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: **Nehemiah 8:6** And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, **Amen, Amen**, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:7 Also Jeshua, and Bani, ...and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. **Nehemiah 8:8** So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Nehemiah 8:12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Nehemiah 8:13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law. **Nehemiah 8:14** And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month: **Nehemiah 8:15** And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Nehemiah 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Nehemiah 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Nehemiah 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. **Luke 4:17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. **Acts 13:15** And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

3. Talk less – in worship!

Ecclesiastes 5:2 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. **Ecclesiastes 5:3** For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.**

Ecclesiastes 5:4 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. **Ecclesiastes 5:5** Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. **Ecclesiastes 5:6** Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? **Ecclesiastes 5:7** For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

4. Fear God most of all – in worship!

Ecclesiastes 5:2 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.

Ecclesiastes 5:7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: **but fear thou God.**

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, **that men should fear before him.** **Ecclesiastes 8:12** Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man. **Ecclesiastes 12:14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.