

Ecclesiastes 5:1 - 7 Word Search

Z M N E W J J Y R S V K R H S
 A B J S O J H A M Y O W K W A
 Y F U W R R X A B E M I O N C
 C M S R D X E H P H N F S V R
 L V K G S R W O H H R N P M I
 G Q A A D H P U V E M V I O F
 F O O L S R E B G U H O W T I
 H J M T O N B W N G A C U K C
 C Z J M E L E J F N E E Y T E
 K B I K X S R V I O I J G A H
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 V P P Z L C J I S S N D V D D
 P I H S R O W Z M Q K C U G G

FOOLS
MOUTH
TONGUE
WORSHIP

EARTH
HEAVEN
SACRIFICE
WORDS

DREAMS
FOOT
PROMISE
VOW

Memory Verse

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

— Ecclesiastes 5:1

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

Signature

Daily Bible Studies June 2 - June 8, 2013

“Mind How You Worship, Christian” Ecclesiastes 5:1 - 7



The Lord's Day & Monday

This week we will be studying Ecclesiastes 5:1 - 7. This passage is full of some important warnings that you and I need to hear.

Before we get to the warnings, let's first remember what Solomon has taught us so far. Do you remember the second verse of Ecclesiastes? "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Do you remember what vanity means? It means pointless or useless. Solomon has been telling us that life without the Lord Jesus is pointless.

Maybe you are saying, "Yup. I get it. You have told me over and over again. If I forget God, my life will be a waste. You are coming through loud and clear. No worries though, I've decided I am going to get real religious. I am going to be at church all the time. I am going to pray some real long prayers. I am going to make a bunch of promises to God. Don't worry, I will make my life count. I won't be one of the people living a pointless life."

Well, boys and girls, if you have been thinking like that, pay attention. You are avoiding the trap of forgetting God, but you are about to step right into another trap.



Remember, the Lord made Solomon very wise. Solomon is about to tell us how we can make religion or the worship of God a pointless thing. In your enthusiasm to avoid all of the vain things that Solomon has taught us about, you can turn around and worship God all wrong. Your worship can be just as pointless as building sandcastles one inch from the water.

"Wait, what??? Worshipping God pointless?? What do you mean?"

That's right. God wants you to stop running after the foolish things of the world and he wants you to run after Him, but there is a right and wrong way to run after Him. That's why Solomon says, "Guard (watch) your steps when you go to the house of God." - Ecclesiastes 5:1

Friday & Saturday Quiz

Review the week's lessons. Write down some things you learned, then go tell your parents and/or one of the elders.

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Thank you for the study this week, Lord. I pray that you will help me to listen more and talk less. You need no teacher. You don't need any advice or help. I, Lord, need to be taught by you. I need your guidance. Help me to humbly keep my mouth closed and worship you in my heart."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday & Saturday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 5:6-7**.

We wrap up the week with more thoughts on the words we speak and the promises we make to God.

Solomon reminds us again to be very careful about what comes out of our mouth. Once it comes out, you cannot take it back. You can't tell the Lord, "I take it back. I didn't mean it."

There was a man in the book of Judges called Jephthah the Gileadite. Judges 11:30-31 says that Jephthah promised that if God would destroy his enemies, he would sacrifice the first thing that came out of his house. Jephthah was joyful when God did destroy his enemies, but when he got home the first thing that came out of his house was his only daughter. Jephthah had to kill his own daughter in order to keep his promise and he did. He kept his promise because he feared God and it was the right thing to do.

Another example of making promises without thinking is seen in the New Testament. King Herod, who had some very sinful relationships, promised to give an attractive woman anything she wanted. Herod's heart sunk, when the lady asked him to kill John the Baptist. Herod did not want to kill John because he knew John was very popular. He was afraid that people would become very angry with him if he killed John. Despite his fears, Herod had no choice. He had to keep the promise or he would look very weak and stupid. Be careful. You may say something without thinking and then pay the price for your thoughtlessness later on.

Finally this week, Solomon gives us a nice little summary. "For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God." Solomon reminds us that when we are quick to talk a lot, we probably are sinning and saying things that we will regret. Instead of spewing words out of your mouth, be quiet. Listen to God and fear him. He needs to do the speaking. You need to listen and obey.

The Lord's Day & Monday Quiz

1. Many people think they are worshipping God. They go to church and participate in a lot of religious activities. Why do you think people do those things?

2. Is everyone that thinks they are worshipping God, really worshipping God? _____.

3. Read 1st Samuel 16:7. What does that verse teach you about worshipping God?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, thank you that you have shown me that life is pointless without you. Please keep me from trying to earn your love and acceptance by offering you fake, pointless worship. Help me, Holy Spirit, to worship you in spirit and in truth."

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

Tuesday

Today's reading is **Ecclesiastes 5:1**.

Yesterday, we kind of ended with a cliffhanger. Hopefully, you have been wondering how in the world worshipping God can be pointless.

One way worship becomes pointless is by failing to prepare for it. Verse 1 tells us to walk prudently, or carefully, when we go to the house of God.

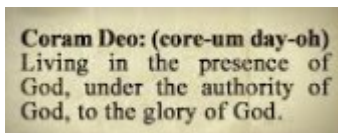
First, you must remember who God is. He is holy. If God was not patient and if Jesus had not paid the price for your sins, you would suffer in Hell forever. God is your creator. He gave you life and he will take it away when he chooses to. God is not someone to think lightly of. Your body, mind, and heart should be ready to meet God when you go to church.

Imagine you were going to meet President Obama. Would you wear ripped jeans and a shirt with mustard stains? Would you walk into his office yelling and jumping on his furniture? No, of course not. You would be very serious and alert.

Well, God doesn't mind mustard stains so much, but he does want you to come to church humbly. He wants you to "feel" what an honor it is to be able to come and to hear His word preached and to know that God is "in the house." He doesn't want you fighting with your brothers and sisters on the way. He doesn't want you goofing around and acting like worship is no big deal. He doesn't want your mind focused on the movie you watched last night or on the Bills game later that day. He wants the attention on Him.

The Bible is God's words written down. When we read the Bible in church, it is as though Jesus himself walked in and began preaching. If Jesus was preaching in our church next Sunday, how do you think you would act before church? What about during church? How about after?

Be careful, kids, a silly, disrespectful worship of God is a pointless, vain worship of God. Get your body ready for church. Get your mind ready for church. Get your heart ready for church. Oh, and by the way...I am not just talking about church. This applies to your whole life.



Coram Deo: (core-um day-oh)
Living in the presence of
God, under the authority of
God, to the glory of God.

Thursday Quiz

True or False

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. It is better not to make promises than it is to make promises and then break them. | T | F |
| 2. God always keeps his promises. | T | F |
| 3. If I make a promise to God and then break it, I can never be forgiven. | T | F |
| 4. If you don't feel like keeping your promise, it's OK. God will understand. You are only human, after all. | T | F |
| 5. God is really surprised when you don't keep your promises. | T | F |

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, I am sorry that I have made promises and not kept them. I believe that you will always keep your promises. I know that if I come to you I will find rest for my soul and I will have eternal life. I know this because you have promised it and you always tell the truth."

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make. Pray for their souls, that they might know Christ. Pray that we as Christian citizens would faithfully proclaim God's word to all people, including our political leaders. Finally, last week was Memorial Day. Pray for families who are saddened because of the death of a loved killed in war. Pray that the death of American soldiers would not be vain, but instead would promote righteousness and the spread of the gospel in our world.

Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 5:4 - 5.**

Today, we continue to watch our steps. How can we avoid making our worship of God vain and pointless?

Which do you think God loves?

Choice 1: You make a lot of promises to God that you can't keep.

Choice 2: You believe that God has promised you some things and that He keeps his promises.

The correct answer is choice 2. You overestimate yourself, if you think you are going to keep a bunch of promises that you make to God. On the other hand, God always keeps his promises. We have said it before: We are promise breakers. The Lord God is a promise keeper.

When you make a promise to God and do not keep it you have acted foolishly. You have lied to God. You might have thought, "I will promise to do something for God so that he gives me what I want now. Later on if I can't keep my promise or I don't want to keep it anymore, I will just ask Jesus to forgive me. I will tell Jesus that I didn't really mean what I said." If you have done something like that you have tried to play a trick on your Lord, except he wasn't tricked. You have acted like God is stupid. Do you think he was "born yesterday?" No, he is the Ancient of Days.

When you break your promises to God, you have sinned and you deserve to be punished. Thankfully, Jesus was punished for His people's sins and you can be forgiven. *He promises* that if you come to Him in faith, you will be forgiven. *And God never breaks His promises.*

What is the conclusion then? Be very careful about making promises to God. Think about it before you do. Can you really keep your promise? Are you willing to keep it? If you don't think you will keep your promise, you better not make one. God doesn't want your empty, pointless promises.

Tuesday Quiz

1. What can you do to get your body ready for church? What should you avoid so that your body is ready for church?

2. What can you do to get your mind ready for church? What should you avoid so that your mind is ready for church?

3. What can you do to get your heart ready for church? What should you avoid so that your heart is ready for church?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Lord Jesus, forgive me for approaching you disrespectfully. Thank you that you are merciful and longsuffering. Help me to live before with you with godly fear."

Pray for your church family:

1. Pastor Tim, Mrs. Kim, Titus, Anna, and Joel Griffith
2. Mr. Bob and Mrs. Dee Howard
3. Mrs. Judy Mahnk

Wednesday

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3** today, please.

You have heard the phrase, “Talk is cheap.” Those words aren’t written in the Bible, but it was God’s idea. Our Lord Jesus said, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And **in vain they worship Me**, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” (Mark 7:6-7) The Lord does not want our cheap talk and our cheap sacrifices. If we think that He does, then our worship has become pointless.

Verse 1 says, “...draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.” Don’t think that you have something great to give to God. He doesn’t need you, your time, or your stuff. You need Him. Don’t proudly think that you are one of the smart ones. “Oh, there are so many dumb people out there, ignoring God, but I have been studying Ecclesiastes! I am really going to impress Jesus!” God is not impressed by you. He is impressed with Himself and His perfect Son, Jesus. He wants you to listen to Him. He wants you to have an attitude that says, “God, be merciful to me a sinner,” not one that says, “Wow, Lord, aren’t you glad I am on your team?” Don’t think God is pleased because you come to church. He is pleased if you know that you are a sinner and know that you need Jesus and believe that Jesus is your Savior and Lord.

Now look at verses 2 and 3. Your worship can also become useless if you pray thoughtless, heartless prayers. Jesus told us that whatever comes out of our mouths originally came from our hearts. Imagine a pipe from your heart to your mouth. If the only thing coming out of your mouth is a bunch of hot air, what is in your heart? Nothing. No love for God at least.

What’s the point? It is better to say a few words to God and mean them than it is to say a lot of words for the sake of putting on a show. God is not fooled. Remember he is God in heaven. You are just a puny creature on Earth. Your long prayers will not erase that huge distance between you and God. Thankfully, the Lord Jesus did.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” - Ephesians 2:13

Wednesday Quiz

Fill in the following verses (NKJV):

1. Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of _____ sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his _____ is wise.
2. Proverbs 17:28 Even a _____ is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he _____ his lips, he is considered perceptive.
3. Matthew 12:34 “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, _____ good things? For out of the abundance of the _____ the mouth _____.
4. Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools _____ forth foolishness.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

—James 1:26-27

Prayer

Pray about today’s lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray: “Dear God, you deserve true worship. Forgive me for pretending to love and serve you. I really don’t have anything of worth to give you, but I am thankful you gave your Son for me.”

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week’s missionaries are Mr. and Mrs. Doyle. They will be preaching the gospel in Nicaragua, a small country in central America. They are learning to speak Spanish at a school in Costa Rica. Back in March, Mr. Doyle and his daughter Eva were robbed at gunpoint. Pray for their safety! They also have a brand new baby, Isabella.