Be Careful How You Come to Church
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
October 13, 2019

Four questions to consider about God and His church:
  1. What is your approach to God?
  2. What is your level of commitment to God?
  3. What is your level of commitment to God’s church?
  4. What is your attitude toward God?

Takeaway:
Going to a church is easy, but staying faithfully committed to a church has become extinct.

Getting married is easy in today’s world, but staying contently married for a lifetime has become extinct.

I. Guard Your Approach to God

A. The ritual approach

Ecclesiastes 5:1 (NKJV) 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.

B. The shallow approach

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 (ESV) Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore, let your words be few. For a dream comes with much business, and a fool’s voice with many words.

John Bunyan – “Pilgrim’s Progress“:
“It's better to have heart without words than to have words without a heart.”

C. The heartfelt approach

Ecclesiastes 5:1 (ESV) Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.
John Stott:  
“If you were to go to the White House, or to Congress, or to the United Nations and bring a request, I guarantee you wouldn't just come, you'd come prepared. You'd think about what you're going to say, you'd think about the attitude that you're going to bring, you'd think about your proper behavior in that setting. So why not be prepared before God when you arrive?”

Practical application:  
Go to the CBC website every week, download the message outline, and prepare yourself for the message. It’s up every week by Thursday...end of the day...sometimes by morning... Always make the assumption that God will use the Word to speak to you.

Prayer reflection:  
Lord, keep the memory of Your death fresh to me. Every time I partake of the Lord’s Supper, let my heart be stirred, as though You died only yesterday. Never let coming to church and the Lord’s Table become just a formality to me, but always let it be a very real and fresh experience.