

Do Not Offer the Sacrifice of Fools

Ecclesiastes 5:1-3

1. _____
The Lord is instructing His people to be proactively careful when gathering for corporate worship. In the plan of God, there was to be a single designated and central location for where He was to be worshipped (Deut 12:5). When this book was written, Solomon had finished building the temple and it was now the place where God was to be worshipped (1 Kings 8:10-13; 9:3). The worship which God prescribed was never to be disconnected (cf. Lev. 1:2-5) or without reflection (Matt 5:22-23). The way to guard your steps is to be remember and observe God's instructions for your behavior (cf. Ex. 23:13; Deut.6:17).

2. _____
When we come to worship the Lord, we must be prepared to listen rather than to speak. One of the marks of a fool is that he is unable or unwilling to exercise control over his tongue (Jas. 1:26). It is good to offer prayers to the Lord (Eph 6:18; Col.4:2; 1 Thess 5:17), but we must not be careless in the way in which we pray (Matt 6:5-8; Luke 18:1-14). Any who desire to teach must also be very careful so that they do not offer the sacrifice of fools (Jas. 3:1).

3. _____
We must not merely guard what comes out of our mouths, but we must be careful to discipline our minds to be in subjection before the Lord. One of the marks of growing in likeness to Christ is that our very thinking changes to be more in line with God's Word (cf. Rom. 12:1-2). The constant struggle in the Christian life is to examine all that we think, say, and do in an effort to be obedient to Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 10:5).