

**“A Gathering Worthy of God”**

**10th in “The Good Life” Series**

**Text:** **Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 pg. 555**

March 12, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

8) How do vv. 2-3 rebuke a partial or half-way Christianity, where we speak

 Christian words (“Glory to God!” or “I’ll pray for you!”) but we do not

 match them in action? How is this sinful?

9) Vv. 4-7 are saying that a Christian should do what they say, or that their

 worship should flow into their daily lives. Why do we so easily worship

 God on Sunday morning and not on Monday morning? How can we make

 our entire life a “holy and acceptable worship to God” (Rom. 12:1)?

10) The commands in this text are not denying that your Christian life is

 entirely based on the work of God. So, how do we heed the commands of

 God to take his house seriously and yet know it is done only by the grace

 of God?

11) What are some practical steps you can take this week to “guard your steps”

 (v. 1) as you “do” church?

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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**Introduction**

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In this passage God offers a rebuke that challenges us to take seriously his church and our Christian life.

**The Text: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

1. In this text we learn three general truths about God and his church.
2. God has a house.
3. God hears and speaks in his house.
4. God knows and judges the way we act and worship in his house.
5. God gives us four specific aspects of a worthy gathering of his church.
	1. We should come to church with preparation (v. 1a).
	2. Our most important assignment at church is to listen and receive (v. 1b).
	3. Our words and actions at church should be done with caution and in light of God’s holiness (vv. 2-3).
	4. A worthy gathering will end in intentional response and a worship that is lived in real life (vv. 4-7).

**Response**

* Guard your steps as you “do” church, O house of God!

The Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Would you like to be involved in a Small group? Contact Pastor Brad at pastorbrad@hefc.net**

**A Gathering Worthy of God**

**Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

1. Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
2. It’s easy to think of church as run and managed by people and programs. In what ways does this text forcefully remind us that the church is God’s house? Why is that important?
3. Certainly the phrase “house of God” in v. 1 does not mean God is limited to a physical dwelling. Nevertheless, how has God established his presence in a special way in the church? Can you think of biblical evidence?
4. This text makes clear that God takes seriously his church and how we treat it and act in it. What are some of the ways we might dishonor God in his house, the church?
5. “Guard your steps” in v. 1 refers to our demeanor and preparedness. How should we “prepare” for church and worship in God’s house? How might a lack of regular attendance also dishonor God?
6. What should we do if we don’t want to come to church, or we don’t have a good attitude when we come?
7. According to v. 1, our most important job when we come to God’s house is to listen and receive. Why is that the most important thing? What does it mean to listen and receive?