

ECCLESIASTES | Going to Church

Discussion Guide

We were created to worship, and if we are not careful we can end up worshiping the wrong things, even our spiritual practices. We do not earn the love and grace of God through obedience, practices or works- His love and grace are gifts and our practices help us to more fully receive and rejoice in them, which deepens our relationship with Him and produces obedience and works in us.

Discussion Questions

1. What spiritual practices are a part of your daily life?
2. Do you know why these practices are part of your life, or why others are not?
3. Have you ever felt like you “had” to do something for God? Why might you have felt that way?
4. Are there distractions, fears or doubts that keep you from watching your life to see what God is doing in it, or listening to hear what He is saying to you?
5. How is God calling you into deeper relationship with Him?

WEEKLY PRACTICE:

Meditate on 1 Corinthians 13, and identify your heart's desires and bring them daily to God.

Sermon Notes

“Better to remain silent and thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.” - Lisa Simpson

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 (NASB) “Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and approach to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know that they are doing evil. Do not be quick with your mouth or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few. For the dream comes through much effort, and the voice of a fool through many words. When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you not vow, than vow and not pay. Do not let your speech cause you to sin, and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice, and destroy the work of your hands? For in many dreams and in many words there is futility. Rather, fear God.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9 (NASB) “Now Israel, you shall listen and be careful to do them, so that it may go well for you and that you may increase greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Isaiah 29:13 (NASB) “Then the Lord said, ‘Because this people approaches Me with their words And honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of the commandment of men that is taught;’

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NASB) “This is what the LORD says: ‘Let no wise man boast of his wisdom, nor let the mighty man boast of his might, nor a rich man boast of his riches; but let the one who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises mercy, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the LORD.”

Mark 9:7 (NASB) "Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: 'This is My beloved Son; listen to Him!'"

James 3:1-2,5,7-10 (NASB) "Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we who are teachers will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to rein in the whole body as well. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no one among mankind can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way."

Deuteronomy 5:27-29 (NASB) "'Go near and listen to everything that the LORD our God says; then speak to us everything that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will listen and do it.' Now the LORD heard the sound of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me, 'I have heard the sound of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. If only they had such a heart in them, to fear Me and keep all My commandments always, so that it would go well with them and with their sons forever!'"