

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19th from 7-8pm
Childcare Birth - K
Good Friday is a time for deep and sober reflection about our lives, especially if there had been no Cross and no Resurrection. It is a time to remember our great Redeemer who purchased us from our waywardness and called us home.

Easter Services

Saturday 6pm, nursery-K provided
Sunday Morning normal times, 8:15, 9:30 & 11am with full childcare programs

Women's Bible Study

Beginning a new study on Choosing Gratitude by Nancy Leigh DeMoss, April 17th at 9:30am. Please sign up for free childcare at the welcome center.
Books may be purchased on Amazon or free audible on Hoopla App.

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Week 13: Vows of Vapor Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
2 Chronicles 1-7
2 Samuel 7

1 Timothy 2:8-9
Matthew 6:5-8



Week 13: Vows of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

We are at week 13 in our sermon series on Ecclesiastes. The book of Ecclesiastes was written by a man who has achieved everything he ever wanted, yet found that all the things he pursued were meaningless. Solomon in his writing keeps trying to get us to set our eyes where they need to be, not on ourselves or others, but on God Himself. He will show (by asking questions) that everyone and everything will eventually let us down...everyone except for God Himself. Today Solomon turns his attention to worship.

How have you been let down by people in your life?

How have they NOT let you down?

What is your understanding of worship?

Worship comes from Latin and it means – **to ascribe worth to**. It could almost be said as the word “worth-ship.” In the Christian context, Worship is knowing who God is and responding to Him as He has revealed Himself. It is getting our worth-ship/worship out of the realm of the created into the realm of the eternal, focusing on the one who is *already* worthy. Unfortunately, we tend to worship all sorts of created things rather than our Creator.

Read and Discuss Ecclesiastes 5:1-7.

What do you worship instead of God?

What would it mean to worship God ‘well?’

Aaron spoke this week about how to worship well and gave us 6 principles. These principles are not inclusive of everything worship entails, but they are a good spot to start honestly looking at how we worship.

1) *Reverence for God’s presence* – Worship of God is something that should be undertaken with thoughtfulness and reverence.

Define reverence.

Do you think you approach God reverently?

2) *Receptiveness to God’s words* – This means we listen to what God says because His words are practical and applicable to life.

How have you heard God speak and lead you?

Do you listen to Him when He speaks?

3) *Repentance* – The purpose of the offerings that God required in Solomon’s day was expressed by the word, “*hear*,” which means to obey and “*draw near*.” These words frequently describe the intimacy between God and those who go to Him for worship and fellowship.

How has God drawn you near to Him?

4) *Honest Prayers* – These are words spoken to God where we do not hide who or what we are because He already knows.

Have you ever prayed to God trying to sound or be more holy than you actually are?

5) *Unwavering Vows* – When we make a promise before God we should not delay in fulfilling it. Not because our righteousness before Him is based on fulfillment, but our love for Him will be reflected in how we honor Him.

Have you ever made a vow before God? What was it?

Did you follow through?

6) *Our worship is to have realistic expectations* – These expectations are for us (we are not as holy or perfect as we want others to think we are) and of God (what true grace actually means).

What do you think is foolish worship?

Worship begins and ends with standing in awe of God. Too often we want to talk about how good we are and not how good God is. We have the tendency to cease asking God if we are pleasing Him with our lives, marriages, and friendships, and instead focus on pleasing ourselves and others around us. Worship is not about us, it is meant to be about Him.