

**ST. SIMEON ANGLICAN CHURCH, OFF FUTA ROAD, AKURE**  
**BIBLE STUDY, 19/09/2007**

**STUDY 5**

**THE WORSHIPPERS OF GOD**

Ecc. 5 : 1 – 8

Solomon, in these verses, discourses, concerning the worship of God, prescribing that as a remedy against all those vanities which he had already observed to be in wisdom, learning, pleasure, honour, power, and business. That we may not be deceived by those things, nor have our spirits vexed with the disappointments we meet with in them, let us make conscience of our duty to God and keep up our communion with him; but, withal, he gives a necessary caution against the vanities which are to often found in religious exercises, which deprive them of their excellency and render them unable to help against other vanities. If our religion be a vain religion, how great is that vanity! Let us therefore take heed of vanity, 1. In hearing the word, and offering sacrifice (v. 1). 2. In prayer (v. 2, 3). 3. In making vows (v. 4-6). 4. In pretending to divine dreams (v. 7). Now, (1.) For a remedy against those vanities, he prescribes the fear of God (v. 7). (2.) To prevent the offence that might arise from the present sufferings of good people, he directs us to look up to God (v. 8).

**1. A caution to worshippers**

Ecc. 5:1-3; 2:4; Psalm 73:17; Prov. 25:17; 19:2; Exo. 3:5; Joshua 5:15; Exo. 30:19; Prov. 15:8; I Sam. 15:22; Isaiah 1:15-16; Matthew 15:8-9; I Cor. 16:15; Job 9:14; Matthew 7:7; Ecc. 10:11; Prov. 10:8-10

Address thyself to the worship of God, and take time to compose thyself for it. Keep thy thoughts from roving and wandering: keep thy affections from running out toward wrong objects. We should avoid vain repetitions; copious prayers are not here condemned, but those that are unmeaning. How often our wandering thoughts render attendance on Divine ordinances little better than the sacrifice of fools! Many words and hasty ones, used in prayer, show folly in the heart, low thoughts of God, and careless thoughts of our own souls.

**2. The obligation of a vow**

Ecc. 5:4-8; Num. 30:2; Psalm 66:14; I Sam. 1:11; Psalm 76:11; Acts 5:4; Exo. 23:20-21; Jer. 23:25-26; 10:2,5,7; Exo. 18:11; Num. 24:7; Job 24:23; Dan. 6:2

When a person made engagements rashly, he suffered his mouth to cause his flesh to sin. The case supposes a man coming to the priest, and pretending that his vow was made rashly, and that it would be wrong to fulfil it. Such mockery of God would bring the Divine displeasure, which might blast what was thus unduly kept. We are to

keep down the fear of man. Set God before thee; then, if thou seest the oppression of the poor, thou wilt not find fault with Divine Providence; nor think the worse of the institution of magistracy, when thou seest the ends of it thus perverted; nor of religion, when thou seest it will not secure men from suffering wrong. But though oppressors may be secure, God will reckon for all.