"The Sin of Being Casual With God"
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

"Our aim from the heart, from a place of sincerity, is to give the private and corporate worship of God our highest preparation, our fullest focus, our greatest affections, and our highest priority!"

"Draw near to God (in faith and fear/reverence), and He will draw near to you (with grace and mercy in our time of need). Cleanse your hands (repent of your wicked ways), you sinners, and purify your hearts (repent of your wicked thoughts and lack of faith), you double-minded (hypocrisy)…Humble yourselves (lower ourselves and exalt God in our minds and hearts) before the Lord, and He will exalt you." (James 4:8,10)

"And thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe (a sense of our unworthiness and a desire to please Him), for our God is a consuming fire (a righteous judge of sin)." (Hebrews 12:28b-29); "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit (deeply affected by sin and grace) and trembles at My word (finds God's Word good and trustworthy)." (Isaiah 66:2b)

- "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God…"
  - To ***"guard our steps"*** is to take care so that we don't fall. We go to the house of God prepared (cf. James 4:8-10).
  - ***"Draw near to listen"*** to the Word of God. We are not there to hear the servant, we are there to hear the Master.
    - *"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which **you heard from us**, **you accepted it** not as the word of men but as what it really is, **the word of God**, which is at work in you believers." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*
  - ***"The sacrifice of fools"*** is a sacrifice that is offered from an unprepared, insincere heart, as if God doesn't know.
    - *"This people honors Me with their lips, but **their heart** is far from Me; **in vain** do they worship Me." (Matthew 15:8-9a)*
- "Guard your heart and mouth in the house of God…"
  - ***"God is in heaven and you are on earth"*** is a call to remember who we are engaging with. *"And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)*
  - We should not be ***"rash with (our) mouth"*** in our singing, in our agreement, in our preaching or teaching, in our commitments, in our prayers, or in our support of people. *"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak." (Matthew 12:36)*
  - To ***"let (our) words be few"*** is to think deeply, to count the cost, to be sincere, and all of this requires reverence and preparation.
    - We are not to be moved by ***"dreams"*** but by reality. We are to not be moved to speak by our feelings but by our thoughtfulness.
- "Guard your vows when you leave the house of God…"
  - Vows are made and kept by first acknowledging our weakness, our changeability, our instability, and our utter dependence upon God.

Continued →

Worship: So I Will Trust You — *Sovereign Grace Music* God Is For Us — *CityAlight* It Is Well — *Various Artists* **Closing Song:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me — *Sovereign Grace Music*

- We are reckless and unintentional in our appealing to grace. We often minimize the severity of sin in the name of grace. *“Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Romans 6:1b)*
- Sincerity and love is seen in obeying God’s Word, keeping our commitments, being reliable, faithful, and trustworthy. *“Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)*

- “But God is the one you must fear.”
  - ***Reverence for God*** and hunger for God are the road to living for God from the heart; to avoid empty formalism and empty casualness before God. *“But the LORD of hosts, Him shall you honor as holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.” (Isaiah 8:13; cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** ***Angel Tree:*** Please see the November Newsletter for more information about this monthly donation collection!

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch TODAY immediately following the worship service. We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is THIS Tuesday, November 3rd, from 7 to 8pm. We invite you all to join us for this time of prayer, whether it is for a portion of time or for the full hour of prayer. We ask that you take time to write your name and a few prayer requests on the index card that is in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Please put those index cards in the basket on the front table before you leave today.

★**MEN’S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men’s Breakfast is THIS Saturday, November 7th, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location, at 7am. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★**MEMBERS’ MEETING:** We are having a Members’ Meeting NEXT Sunday, November 8th, immediately following the worship service. This will be a short meeting, as we will be voting on the 2027 Church Budget. If you are a Church Member, we encourage you to please plan on staying for this meeting. Only current Church Members are able to vote at this meeting.

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our Monthly Church Game Night is NEXT Sunday, November 8th, at Andy’s house (1062 National Road SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. Please bring your favorite board game or card game to play, and a food item to share with everyone. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this great time of fun and fellowship!

★*For all other announcements, please see the November Newsletter!*