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Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

## Monday

Eccl. 5:1 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools.

“Authentic Christianity is not learning a set of doctrines... It is not simply humanitarian service to the less fortunate. It is a walk — a supernatural walk with a living, dynamic, communicating God. Thus the heart and soul of the Christian life is learning to hear God’s voice and developing the courage to do what he tells us to do. Authentic Christians are persons who stand apart from others, even other Christians, as though listening to a different drummer. Their character seems deeper... They are joyful in spite of difficult circumstances and show wisdom beyond their years.” (Hybels, *Too Busy Not To Pray*, p. 125) Does Hybels’ description describe you? How are you going to engage in worship so that it can?

## Tuesday

Heb. 10:25 Do not forsake our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another as you see the day drawing near.

If our attitude for worship was our attitude for eating, most professing Christians would be starving to death. Can you hear someone saying, “I quit eating altogether because the food did not always taste as good as I thought it should.”? Or another, “I no longer eat at all because sometimes I am just not hungry at meal time.” Still another, “I eat no longer because I couldn’t find a cook I liked.” Or “my cook cooked a bad meal.” Those who do not eat become weak, sick, and die; those do too who do not worship. Cut back on food perhaps, but feast in worship.

## Wednesday

Acts 20:29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

The modern habit of choosing churches because of the services offered or music played is leading many believers into error and heresy. Parents particularly should be mindful of the teaching under which they are placing their children. Fellowship and camaraderie is wonderful, but the devil and his demons surely have great fellowship. Where you worship is important, more important than present day believers want to acknowledge. The devil loves for you to go to church, as long as it is a false teaching, spirit numbing experience. He’ll give you music you like, fellowship and lots of fun. He is not STUPID. Don’t you be!

## Thursday

Eccl. 5:1 Guard your steps as [enter] and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil.

Manipulating God is the whole plan of many when they enter to worship. They seek to make a trade off. “God, I will give you a bit of my time, maybe a sacrifice of cash. In return, you bless me, give to me, and keep me safe and warm.” Such is the sacrifice of fools who do not even know they are doing evil. The heart of a genuine worshiper **draws near to hear God**, anxiously looking for a word of instruction, listening closely for a word of correction, knowing surely there will be a word of challenge and of comfort. Guard your steps. Come listening, hearing.

## Friday

Jer. 7:2 ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all who enter by these gates!’

You prepare for everything important, right? Then prepare for worship! Surely there is nothing more important that you do. Prepare by confessing known sin; enter with a cleansed conscience. Prepare, being intentional in listening for God’s word to you. This will be the most important aspect of worship. Don’t be *mindless* but be mindful of your planning for worship. Prepare to hear God’s word by joining into God’s praise. Worship must include honoring Him through praise and giving, as well as hearing Him. Giving has always been a part of honoring God.