



February 23, 2020  
Pastor Eric Wakeling

## **What's the Point of Worship and Prayer? Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

### **Prepare your heart before you approach God Ecclesiastes 5:1a**

Ecclesiastes 5:1a – *“Guard your steps as you go to the house of God.”*

- Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) - *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”*
- Hebrews 10:22 - *“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...”*

### **Draw near to listen, not only to speak Ecclesiastes 5:1b-3**

Ecclesiastes 5:1b – *“Draw near to listen rather than offer the sacrifice of fools.”*

- The sacrifice of fools - in form and ritual only with no sincerity of heart
- We need both intimacy and reverence for God, a closeness with a healthy fear
  - *“For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.”* Ecclesiastes 5:2b
- James 1:19 - *“But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”*
- Matthew 6:7 - *“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”*

### **Worship is our actions, not our promises Ecclesiastes 5:4-7**

Ecclesiastes 5:5 – *“It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.”*

- James 5:12 - *“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”*
- Keep obedience and reverence for God above words and vows
  - Ecclesiastes 5:7 (NLT) - *“Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead.”*
  - Ecclesiastes 12:13 - *“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”*

**Response:** Use this time of worship to sit and listen and allow the Word of God to wash over you. Surrender this time to God to listen to His voice rather than speaking your needs. Practice this in solitude sometime this week.

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Talk about how easy or difficult it is for you to listen to God rather than speaking. When and how have you heard God's voice in these moments?
2. How can you take steps to prepare your heart for individual prayer or worship in a group gathering?
3. What has been your experience with making vows to God? Have you ever made a hasty vow when in deep trouble? How can you grow in keeping your word and not making too many promises?

## Next Steps:

**JOIN A LIFEGROUP:** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, visit the Groups & Gatherings wall in the Lobby today or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)

## About Sons of Korah

Sons of Korah is an Australian based band devoted to giving a fresh voice to the biblical psalms. The Psalms have been the primary source of the worship traditions of both Judaism and Christianity going right back to ancient times. With their unique acoustic, multi-ethnic sound, Sons of Korah have given this biblical songbook a dynamic and emotive new musical expression.

They endeavour to lead their listeners into an impacting encounter with this book that is often described as the 'heart' of the Bible. From lamentation to songs of jubilant praise, from battle cry to benediction, from exclamation of awe and wonder to reflections of tranquillity and perfect wisdom, Sons of Korah provide a compelling portrait of the world and experience of the Psalms.

Discover more about the band and their music at [sonsofkorah.com](http://sonsofkorah.com)

**Come see Sons of Korah in concert tonight at 6:00pm on their 2020 Tour "From Captivity to Revival."**

Sons of Korah will be playing a sequence of psalms, together with other spoken texts, that will take us on a journey through the faith-defining episode in the history of Israel in the Old Testament: The Babylonian captivity.

In this live concert event Sons of Korah will retrace the journey of the exiles, in the words of the psalms, from cries of anguish and penitence to revived faith and renewed joy. This event will not only engage audiences musically but promises to refresh those in need of spiritual renewal. We encourage you to join us for this unique concert event and experience the power and passion of the biblical psalms.

FREE ENTRY.

A love offering will be collected during this event.