

I. Beware Folly in Worship

- A.** The Regulative Principle of Worship implied in this passage (Ex 20:4-6; *Larger Catechism* 109)
- B.** Being hasty in our worship
 - 1) What does this mean?
 - 2) How is this applied? (a) Not preparing for worship; (b) Offering will-worship; (c) Being caught up in the moment (Lk 14:27-33; 2 Sam 6:2-3, 6-7)
- C.** Reliance upon false authorities, namely fools and dreams
 - 1) Fools — their fruits: (a) Their ignorance (2 Pt 3:16); (b) Their many words; (c) The judgment of God (Rev 2:20-23)
 - 2) Dreams — Characteristics: (a) Unreliable; (b) Inconsistent; (c) Uncontrolled; (d) Incoherent; (e) Fleeting
- D.** Bringing forward many words — Ways this is carried forth: (a) By vowing in our prayers or praise that which we have no intention to fulfill; (b) By vain repetitions of meaningless or perfunctory phrases, seeking to manipulate God through lengthy or super-spiritual prayers (Mt 6:7); (c) By going on and on about something we really know nothing about
- E.** Bringing forward excuses
 - 1) The excuse of thinking we know better (2 Chr 26:16-18).
 - 2) The excuse of ignorance, which when genuine may be easily repented of (Acts 18:25-26).
 - 3) The excuse of changed circumstances (1 Sam 13:7-9)
 - 4) How this excuse-making continues to today when we do not keep our own vows!
- F.** Reasons given for the command that we must beware folly in worship:
 - 1) Because of the danger and darkness of ignorance
 - 2) Because of the glory of God, who is worthy of all adoration in heaven and on earth
 - 3) Because of the witnesses of our sin (1 Cor 11:10; Mt 25:31; Mal 3:1; Heb 12:25; Rev 2:1)
 - 4) Because of the righteous judgment of God in eternity (Mt 12:36)

- 5) Because of the discipline of God in this life (Gal 6:7-8)

G. Uses from the Point

- 1) The need for remission of sins.
- 2) The need for reformation in the Church.

II. Worship God in Wisdom

- A.** To Fear God, which is the beginning of wisdom in worship.
 - 1) The gravity of worship
 - 2) The glory of God (Isa 40:9)
 - 3) The fear of the Lord
 - a) The fear of God will overrule the fear of man (Pr 29:25)
 - b) The fear of God will overrule the feelings of man (Gen 22:12)
 - c) The fear of God will overrule the frantic hysteria of man (Isa 8:12-13)
 - d) All of this serves as foundation to the end that we should keep our vows (Mt 24:13).
- B.** To Hear God, which is the means of maturing in grace.
 - 1) We must listen to God because of the folly of our own thoughts (Dt 6:4-5; *Larger Catechism* 5; 2 Tim 3:16)
 - 2) We must listen to God because of the wisdom, truth, and life of His revelation (Isa 55:8-9)
 - 3) From this, we must see that the Word not only governs our worship, but forms the whole content of our worship
 - 4) Questions for Self-Examination:
- C.** To Obey God, particularly that obedience which has been planted in fear and brings forth the fruit of love, which is the end of the Law (1 Tim 1:5)
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1) Let us make good use of the simplicity of biblical worship.
 - 2) We ought to continually be growing in the fear of the Lord. We may do this by: (a) Regular, and (b) Occasional meditation
 - 3) Remember your vows and the holiness of God in the hour of temptation (Gen 39:8-9)
 - 4) Walk in faith and obedience to God (1 Cor 6:9-11).