

Finding Meaning: Wisdom from Ecclesiastes
The Problem with Religious Ritual
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

It is true that our society was established on Christian principles of morality. These Judeo-Christian values reflected in our laws have led many people to believe that since they live in a Christian nation, they too, are Christians. The problem is with the premise. We don't live in a Christian nation. There is no such thing. We live in a Christianized nation, and we need to realize that just because something has become Christianized, it doesn't mean it is Christian. It doesn't mean redemption has been applied to it.

1. Without faith, our _____ are meaningless.
2. Without faith, our _____ are meaningless.
3. Without faith, our _____ are meaningless.

Faith in Christ gives _____ to religious ritual.

Now there are no sacred structures, but there are a sacred people that gather together. As Alistair Begg argues, there is nothing special about the buildings we worship in except that God's people are there. When we gather corporately, we listen to God's Word, we sing of His glory, and we offer our lives in service to Him and His kingdom. All that we are is offered in worship as worship to our God: our bodies, our money, our praise, our confession, our love for our brothers, and so much more.

Reflection

What are some ways we have made worship all about us? Certainly man-centered worship appeals to our ego, but what might be some other reasons we resonate with it? Why do you think awe at God's magnificent transcendence has been replaced in our culture with Jesus as our homeboy? What are some ways we try to manipulate God to do what we want? Have you ever gotten into a religious rut with your rituals? What did you do, or what must you do to get out? How should the fact that we now have free access to God revolutionize our worship life?