

WORSHIP THE LORD LIKE MEN

Psalm 29:2

*“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness”
Psalm 29:2*

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine I wish to teach you in this booklet is simply this: *Godly men are worshiping men. They are devoted to public worship, family worship, public square worship, private worship, and obedient worship.*

QUESTION I. What is worship?

ANSWER. *Worship is the offering up of spiritual sacrifices to the Lord, for His glory, in private, in public, and with the family, in the ways God prescribes and exemplifies in the Scriptures.*

QUESTION II. Why do godly men worship the LORD?

ANSWER I) *Godly men worship the LORD because he created them.* “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created” (Revelation 4:11). II) *Godly men worship the LORD because he deserves it.* “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness” (Psalm 29:2). III) *Godly men worship the LORD because that is the chief activity he has redeemed them for.* “My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed” (Psalm 71:23). IV). *Godly men worship the LORD because that is the reason Jesus died and was raised.* “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you” (Psalm 22:27).

Jesus died for the sins of his people, was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will return again to make everything happy and holy. He did all of that so that we would worship him and enjoy him forever, starting now. Oh! the privilege of being able to worship our triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit! You and I must not neglect this great privilege!

I. GODLY MEN ARE DEVOTED TO PUBLIC WORSHIP

Through the apostle, God forbids his people from neglecting to gather for public worship (Hebrews 10:24-25). “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” As for those who deny this is about the assembly of the saints for worship, they are ignorant of the context. “Draw near” (Hebrews 10:19) is praise and worship language. Furthermore, this section of Hebrews is answering the question, *if the Old Covenant is done away with, how do we worship the Lord since we no longer do so by ceremonies?* To make sure these Jewish Christians do not think that the public assemblies for worship are no longer mandatory, the apostle writes “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.” Make no mistake, godly men are devoted to public worship in the assembly of the saints on the Lord’s Day.

QUESTION I. Does Hebrews 10:24-25 mean only the Lord’s Day gathering?

ANSWER. *No, not only the public worship gathering on the Lord’s Day, but, in addition, any lawful meeting of the church as directed by the elders; such as for fellowship, prayer, or church discipline (1 Cor. 5:4-5).*

QUESTION II. Why do some neglect the assemblies of the saints?

ANSWER I) *Some neglect the assemblies of saints for “fear of suffering”* (John Owen, commentary on Hebrews 10:24-25). II) *Some neglect the assemblies of saints because of “spiritual sloth”* (John Owen, *ibid*). III) *Some neglect the assemblies of saints because of “unbelief working gradually towards the forsaking of all profession”* (John Owen, *ibid*). IV) *Some neglect the Lord’s Day public worship because they do not love God as they should.* These may even like small groups because they love friends, but by their neglect of public worship they reveal they do not want to be a friend of God. V. *Some neglect intentional times of fellowship, such as small groups, because they do not love the saints as they should.* These may even like public worship because they love God but they do not want to be known by others or know them.

QUESTION III. How does my participation in public worship serve to encourage fellow saints?

ANSWER I) *By your very presence,* reminding other believers they are not alone but have many brothers and sisters who love them and care for them, and also love the Lord. II) *By the fellowship you have with others* and conversation before and after the ordinances of public worship. III. *By your participation* in hearing the Scriptures,

giving a hearty amen to all that is done by God's Word, praying, and taking of the Lord's Supper, which is all done in communion with one another (Hebrews 10:15-16).
IV. *By your singing* of psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, which you address both to God and to your fellow saints (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16-17).

Specifically speaking of public worship on the Lord's Day, this is nothing but a continuation of what God's people of all ages have done. God's church has always assembled themselves together to worship the Lord by his ordinances! The Church under the Old Covenant assembled with the saints for public worship weekly on the Sabbath (Leviticus 23:3). "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation" (i.e. formal assembly or gathering). The Church under the Old Covenant also assembled with the saints for public worship regularly according to the festivals (Numbers 28-29). Christ in his incarnation assembled with the saints weekly for public worship in the synagogues (Luke 4:16). "[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read." Christ regularly went to the Festivals as well (John 2:13, 5:1, 7:10, 10:10). The early Church under the New Covenant assembled with the saints for public worship (Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11 and 14). Christ launched the New Covenant church on the day of Pentecost, and he did it from an assembly of saints which was even on a Sunday, fifty days after the resurrection of Christ, ten days after his ascension (Acts 2:1-4). The early church devoted themselves to public worship (Acts 2:42-47). Later churches in the book of Acts also devoted themselves to public worship and they gathered on the Lord's Day, Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11, 1 Corinthians 14, 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10). John Boys helpfully notes, "The translation of God's holy day. . . from the Saturday to the Sunday, is not by patent in the Bible but only by pattern." It is irrefutable that God's people stopped gathering for worship on Saturday and instead assembled on Sunday. Why? George Swinnock wonderfully writes, "The Jew's seventh day was swallowed in Christ's grave." Amen. Christians need to remember that public worship in the assembly of the saints is the most heavenlike thing in the world (Revelation 5:13). "And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'" Hallelujah! What a joy to get a glimpse of heaven on the gathering of believers for worship. We should rejoice at that thought, yet also beware lest we disobey Hebrews 10:24-25 and what George Swinnock said come true of us: "The Day of the Lord is likely to be a dreadful day to them that despise the Lord's Day." Do you despise the Lord's Day or do you sanctify it by resting from your labors and gathering with the saints for worship?

The Regulative Principle of Worship

John Flavel rightly said, “It is easier to cry against one-thousand sins of others than to kill one of your own.” He is right. Therefore, with that in mind, when we consider what the church should and should not do in the Lord’s Day gathering for worship, first we need to look to ourselves, then our local churches, then, and only then, can we look to the visible church at large. May the Lord God give us purifying grace so that we would sanctify his name in holy worship.

Before looking at the specifics of what we should and should not do when we gather for worship, we need to look at Leviticus 10:1-3, wherein we learn this sobering truth: *If the LORD’s people will not sanctify and glorify him when they draw near, he will sanctify and glorify himself upon them.* Consider with me these three truths we learn from this portion of Holy Scripture:

I) *Worship of the Lord must be offered up according to the Word of the Lord* (Leviticus 10:1). “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, *which he had not commanded them*” (emphasis mine). The word *unauthorized* here could also be translated *strange*. They offered strange fire before the LORD and he killed them for it. Why, exactly? Make no mistake. Nadab and Abihu were struck down because they presumed to worship the LORD in a way that he had not prescribed in the Scriptures. Therefore we must conclude that worship of the Lord must be offered up according to the Word of the Lord.

II) *The glory of the Lord is more precious to him than the lives of men* (Leviticus 10:2). “And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.” This is not the only time the Lord sanctifies his name by putting to death those who try to steal or refuse to give him ascribed glory. Consider Korah’s rebellion in Numbers 16:31-35, Uzzah who touched the Ark of the Covenant in 2 Samuel 6:5-7, Annanias and Sapphira who lied to the Holy Spirit in Acts 5:1-11, and Herod who did not give God the glory in Acts 13:21-24. These kinds of events are recording for us in the pages of Scripture so that you and I would learn or be reminded of this one great fact: God is primarily for God!

We need to remember what Nebuchadnezzar sang in Daniel 4:35: “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” If you are tempted to question what God has done here in Leviticus 10, or elsewhere, you should read and meditate Job 38:2-7, where the Lord rebukes Job: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without

knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Mark it down: The glory of the Lord is more precious to Him than the lives of men! Calvin, reflecting on Leviticus 10, wrote, “If we reflect how holy a thing God’s worship is, the enormity of the punishment will by no means offend us.”

QUESTION IV. How do we apply this truth—*God’s glory is more precious to him than the lives of men*—to our own lives?

ANSWER I) *The glory of the Lord must be more precious to you than the opinions of men.* Let men say what they will, you bind your conscience to the Word of God. Worship him in the ways he prescribes, nothing more and nothing less, no matter what the world or those in the visible church might think! You will not stand before men and give an account; you will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Is the glory of the Lord more precious to you than the opinions of men? II) *The glory of the Lord must be more precious to you than your own glory.* “And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not” (Jeremiah 45:5). Is the glory of the Lord more precious to you than your own glory?

Have you sinned like Nadab and Abihu or Korah or Uzzah or Annanias or Herod? At least one of these ways I am sure you have! Why then has God not struck you down? The only reason can be his great patience and mercy. Do not presume on mercy of the Lord. Repent of any will-worship now. “Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4). Do you see why we each need the Lord Jesus Christ to take our sin away by the blood of his cross? Look at what we deserve not just for immorality but for will-worship. Praise be to God that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’” (Galatians 3:13). Have you truly repented of your sin and embraced Jesus Christ by faith? If not, do so now. If so, praise the Lord in the ways he prescribes, never forgetting that the glory of the Lord is more precious to him than the lives of men.

III) *The people of the Lord must sanctify his name in worship, or he will sanctify his name upon them* (Leviticus 10:3). ““Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.” Charles Bridges notes that, “This is an illustration of the same holiness we saw at Sinai, when He said, ‘Let the

priests that come near to the Lord sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them' (Exodus 19:22)." Calvin writes, "Let us learn, therefore, so to attend to God's command as not to corrupt His worship by any strange inventions. But if He so severely avenged this error, how horrible a punishment awaits the Papists, who are not ashamed obstinately to defend so many gross corruptions!" Amen. Let us sanctify the Lord's name as we draw near to him in worship, lest he sanctify his name upon us.

QUESTION V. How do we sanctify the Lord's name and glorify him in his worship?

ANSWER I) *The Lord's people must draw near to him by faith in Jesus Christ* (Hebrews 7:25). "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." Furthermore, God says through the apostle in Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Drawing near to God must be done through the one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:5). Christ and Christ alone can wash our sins away and clothe us with his righteous robe. II) *Drawing near to God through faith in Christ, the church then must preach, sing, pray, baptize, feast, give, fellowship, practice discipline, and equip, all according to the Word.* For confirmation of these truths, consider each of them in turn:

(I) *The church must preach and hear the Word.* Like Paul commands Timothy to "Preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:2) so must we preach. Like Paul's example in Acts 20:27, "I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God" so must we follow. Like Jesus' brother James tells believers, "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21) so must we listen.

(II) *The church must sing the Word* (Ephesians 5:19-20). "Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(III) *The church must pray the Word* (Matthew 6:9-13). "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'" We should let the prayers of the Scriptures teach us what and how to pray, not being led by our feelings or modern surroundings.

(IV) *The church must baptize according to the Word* (Acts 8:12). "When they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

(V) *The church must feast according to the Word by participating in the Lord's Supper* (1 Corinthians 11:26). "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

(VI) *The church must give according to the Word* (Philippians 4:18). "I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God." In 1 Corinthians 16:2, Paul writes, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."

Now these next points are not necessarily or explicitly done in the offering up of public worship on the Lord's Day, but they do connect with everything that the church does.

(VII) *The church must fellowship around the Word* (Acts 2:42). "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and *the fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (emphasis mine). Believers love to be together in fellowship, sharing meals, prayers, praises, burdens, and possessions. As David sings in Psalm 16:3, true believers say from the heart, "As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

(VIII) *The church must practice church discipline according to the Word* (Matthew 18:15-17). "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." A church that does not practice church discipline is not a church. A church that practices church discipline, according to the word, shows that they truly love God, love neighbor, and love the saints.

(IX) *The church must equip the saints for the work of the ministry with the Word*. Concerning the whole church, Paul tells the Ephesians, "[Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:11-12). Concerning the men Paul tells Timothy, "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Concerning the women specifically Paul tells Titus, "[The older women are to] train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled" (Titus 2:4-5). The church is a collection of living stones, and we must make sure we are stacked together in the way the Lord wants his spiritual house built. Is your church worshiping and functioning according to the Scriptures? Yours and mine must!

I would remind you now of Flavel's words: "It is easier to cry against one-thousand sins of others than to kill one of your own." First look to yourself, then your local church, then, and only then, you look to the visible church at large. May the Lord God give us purifying grace to sanctify his name in holy worship! Godly men are devoted to public worship.

II. GODLY MEN ARE DEVOTED TO DAILY FAMILY WORSHIP

Joshua worshiped the Lord with his family, exemplifying what a godly man looks like in his home (Joshua 24:14-15). "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua devoted himself to family worship and so should we.

The point of this section is to show you the *duty, how to, motives, arguments, and blessings* of family worship. However, let me first ask and answer these questions: How can we best actively obey the First Commandment, from which the rest of the Ten Commandments flow? Answer: daily family worship. John Angier wrote, "The more we worship God in secret, the fitter shall we be for family worship, and the more we worship God in our families, the fitter shall we be for public worship." Amen. II. Fathers, how can you best train up your children in the way they should go, so that when they are old they will not depart from it? Answer: daily family worship. Charles Spurgeon noted, "If we want to bring up a godly family, who shall be a seed to serve God when are heads are under the clods of the valley, let us seek to train them up in the fear of God by meeting together as a family for worship." What can we do to take part in reforming society at large, a society that is in such shambles as we find in the second decade of the 21st century? Answer: daily family worship. Richard Baxter, in *A Christian Directory*, writes, "You are not likely to see any general reformation, till you procure family reformation. Some little religion there may be, here and there; but while it is confined to single persons, and is not promoted in families, it will not prosper, nor promise much future increase." How can we do our part to see revival and reformation in the church both locally and at large? Answer: daily family worship. In the preface of the 1689 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith, the authors wrote, "There is one spring and cause of the decay of religion in our day. . .and that is the neglect of the worship of God in families."

As it was in the late 17th century so it is (and likely far worse!) today. Most professed Christian adults grew up never even hearing the phrase *family worship*, much less practicing it daily in their homes. That must not be so with the next generation! Do you want to obey the First Commandment with this one life God has given you? Do you want your children to be swept away in a tide of carnal Christianity at best or blatant wickedness at worst, or do you want the next generation to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in fear and gladness? Are you at peace with society going to hell in a handbasket or would you see justice and righteousness roll down like the waters? Do you wish that the church would stand firm in the faith and remain faithful to Jesus? Choose this day what you are going to do about it. Get your own house in order. Choose this day to devote yourself to daily family worship.

QUESTION I. What is meant by family worship?

ANSWER. Family worship is the daily use of prayer, Scripture, catechism, and song by a family, led by the head of the household, to worship the one true God for His glory and their good.

If you still live with your parents, it is your duty to participate in family worship, therefore you need to understand it. If you are single and do not live with your parents, it is your duty to do these same things by yourself, as you prepare to one day lead (men) or participate in (women) family worship. If you are married with no children, family worship will be you and your wife for now. I have heard that Richard Baxter said, "For family worship all you need is one to lead and one to follow." I think he is exactly right. If you have children or other relatives in your house, this will be the entire family. Now for the duty, how to, motives, arguments, and blessings.

I) THE DUTY OF FAMILY WORSHIP

(I) *You are commanded to worship the LORD in sincerity and faithfulness, putting away all your former idols* (Joshua 24:14). "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord."

(II) *Do not be deceived, you will worship something or someone* (Joshua 24:15a). "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell." Joshua knows that God created us as worshipers. It is not a question of if, it is a question of who or what. So I ask you, who or what do you worship every day in your home?

(III) Those who worship the LORD, should do so with their household (Joshua 24:15b). “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” The duty of family worship is exemplified and expected of saints many places in Scripture. For the confirmation of this, consider:

(I.) *Job continually worshiped the Lord God with his family* (Job 1:4-5). “His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did continually.”

(II.) *Abraham commanded His household to keep the way of the LORD and offered sacrifices to Him* (Genesis 18:19). “For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” What did that look like? Genesis 22:6-7 makes it plain. Isaac knew how to worship the LORD. “And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ He said, ‘Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’”

(III.) *Jacob set up a family altar by God’s command and worshiped the LORD with his household* (Genesis 35:1-3). “God said to Jacob, ‘Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.’ So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.’”

(IV.) *Asaph says fathers are to instruct their children in the glorious deeds of the LORD* (Psalm 78:3-7). “Things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. . . that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

(V.) *David says the LORD's praises are in the houses of the righteous* (Psalm 118:15). "Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous." Christ's people are singing people, and our songs should fill our houses! Our neighbors walking by should be able to hear the praises of Christ being sung from yours and your children's lips, so that they would say with David, "Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous."

(VI.) *Paul exhorts us all not to be drunk, but to be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs* (Ephesians 5:18-19). "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart."

(VII.) *Paul expects husbands to wash their wives in the water of the Word of God* (Ephesians 5:25-27). "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."

(VIII.) *Paul commands fathers to instruct their children* (Ephesians 6:4). "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." This is but a summarized version of what God commands his people to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, which reads, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

(IX.) *Peter expects husbands to pray with their wives* (1 Peter 3:7). "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Will you join with the saints and worship the Lord with your families? God deserves it!

II) THE HOW TO OF FAMILY WORSHIP

You must plan and be disciplined. It will not happen if you do not cast a vision and then follow up by buffeting your body and making it your slave. Set a time everyday and make it happen. When you worship together in your home, I think you should do at least these four things:

(I) *Pray, thanking, interceding, and petitioning God on behalf of your family* (Job 1:5). “He would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of [all his children]. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did continually.” Husbands and fathers, do not pass on your duty to someone else. Pray on behalf of your family, never handing over your priestly domestic duty to anyone else. In addition, by your example and instruction, teach your wife and your children to pray. Teach them what to pray for according to the general directions of Scripture, and the special direction of the Lord’s Prayer. Thomas Brooks said, “A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven.” Do not leave yourself or your family unprotected. Pray in family worship.

(II) *Read the Scriptures*, explaining and applying to the best of your ability (Deut. 6:4-7). “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” The Scriptures are food for the soul. Feast on them daily. Husbands and fathers, it is your duty to teach your wife and your children the Scriptures. Open the book. Read a section or a chapter. Explain it. Apply it, all to the best of your abilities. Get a good Study Bible (or four). Get good commentaries to help. Listen to sermons on *Monergism.com* or *Grace to You* or *Sermon Audio* or the *Ekklesia Muskogee app*. Prepare beforehand and trust God with the results. Take heart, your labors in the Scriptures will not be in vain. William Gurnall, in the *Christian in Complete Armor*, wrote, “Even when the Christian through weakness of memory cannot remember the very words he hears...he keeps the power and savor of them in his spirit, as when sugar is dissolved in wine, you cannot see it, but you may taste it. . . . so you may taste the truths the Christian heard.” They will nourish those who hear more than you or they even realize.

Thomas Manton said to fathers, “[Fathers, will you] beget children, and keep families, merely for the world and the flesh, or will you bring up a child for God, and govern a family as a sanctified society?” Well, what will you do? Manton goes on to say to mothers, “Especially women should be careful of this duty; because as they are most about their children, and early and frequent opportunities to instruct them, so this is the principal service they can do to God in this world, being restrained from more public work. And doubtless many an excellent magistrate hath been sent into the Commonwealth, and many an excellent pastor into the Church, and many a precious saint to heaven, through the happy preparations of a holy education, perhaps by a woman that thought herself useless and unserviceable to the Church.” Parents have about 6,500 days before their children turn 18. 6,500 days to teach them the Word of God before they leave the house. Waste no more days. Make the best use of the time. Read and apply the Bible in your own in worship to the one true and living God.

(III) *Catechize*, memorizing the most important questions and answers you can ask. The reasoning for this will be covered below in the section on private worship. Fathers, if you do one question per week, focusing on the same one every day, you can get through *The Baptist Catechism* at least eight times with your children before they leave the house. Young adults and adults, you and I are way behind, unless of course your parents actually catechized you. We need to catch up. Make use of catechisms in daily family worship for the glory of the Lord.

(IV) *Sing*, lifting your voices in praise with a Psalm, Hymn, or Spiritual Song (Ps. 118:15-16, Eph. 5:18). “Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!” One of the manliest men to ever live, who killed bears and lions with his own hands, was a singer. Godly men sing. Godly men lead others to sing. Israel would sing as they marched into battle. Lead your family in singing. Teach your children to sing. Singing Psalms with full chests and full hearts is one of the manliest things you can do! Many men these days are tone deaf I think because they did not grow up singing in the home. Do not let that happen to your kids. Look up YouTube videos for voice lessons if you cannot sing. Or hire someone to teach you if you must. It is possible to learn to sing in a way that is on key, many just never give the time to learn.

Concerning singing praises, Thomas Manton wrote, “Self-love may lead us to prayers, but love to God excites us to praises.” Did you catch that? That you pray may not show your love to God. Prayers may just show your love to self. But praises! Praises show our love to the God who first loved us. Thomas Watson writes, “Praising God is one of the highest and purest acts of religion. In prayer we act like men; in praise we act like angels.” Day and night the angels never cease to sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD God almighty” (Revelation 4:8). Join the song in your homes!

III) MOTIVES FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

Thomas Doolittle (1630-1707) has an extremely long sermon with a title to fit: *How May the Duty of Daily Family Prayer be Best Managed for the Spiritual Benefit of Every One in the Family?* In it he gives seven motives to family worship. I commend these to you:

“I) You should pray to God daily in your families because we receive every day family-mercies from the hand of God (Ps. 68:9). II) You should pray to God daily in your families, because there are sins committed every day in your families (Ps. 51:3). III) You should pray in your families daily unto God, because you have many daily family-needs, which none can supply but God (Matt. 6:11). IV) You should pray in your families daily

because of your families' daily employments and labors (Ps. 127:1-2). V) You should pray to God in your families daily, because you are all every day liable to temptations (1 Pet. 5:8). VI) You should pray in your families daily because all in your families are liable to daily hazards, casualties, and afflictions (Jn. 16:33). VII) You must pray to God in your families daily, or the very Heathen will rise up against you Christians and condemn you (observations of the devotion of adherents to pagan religions)."

I would simply add an eighth: You must worship God daily in your families because he is worthy of worship.

IV) ARGUMENTS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

In my favorite book on the subject, *A Family Altar Erected to the Honor of the Eternal God*, Oliver Heywood (1630-1702), gives ten arguments for family worship. I encourage you to read and meditate on these:

"I) Suppose a grave and pious minister, or Christian friend lodge with you, would you not reach him a bible, and desire him to go to prayer with you, lest he should suspect you to be prayerless at other times? And will not God's authority and presence have the like influence, and awe upon your spirits? II) Suppose your friends and relations should quite disown, and disclaim you, unless you would pray in your family, would you not make a hard shift to do something that way, rather than be accounted unworthy of human society? And shall that prevail more than God's disclaiming you, or disowning converse with you? III) If your landlord should turn you out of your house, or your father should disinherit you, if you set not up this family altar, could you be content to suffer both, rather than do it? And shall a threatening of your Father in heaven, or great landlord, to reject or eject you out of heaven avail nothing? IV) If a law were imposed upon you to pay five shillings every time that you neglect prayer in your family, would you forfeit that sum as oft as you go prayerless to bed; would you not fear that would beggar you? And shall not greater losses and heavier penalties deter you from this omission? V) If the king or a nobleman should promise you five pounds every time that you call your family together, read a chapter, sing a psalm, kneel down and pray to God, would you not strain hard to procure that money? And will not a greater profit from Almighty God prevail with you to perform this exercise to obtain a reward? VI) Suppose a brand were set upon your foreheads, like Cain's, or a dreadful trembling should seize upon your bodies for such a neglect...would not this shame you out of your criminal omission? VII) Suppose the next time you go prayerless to bed, your loveliest child and darling should be snatched away by a sudden stroke of death, as it was in Egypt, when the first-born of Pharaoh and others died, and there was a great cry. Would not this move you into a better course? Oh, but a greater evil befalls you, your own precious souls are endangered by neglect. VIII) Suppose a red cross, with a "Lord have mercy upon us," were set upon your doors, and the pestilence were within your house, seizing on you, one after another, and you had nothing else to do

but to get ready to die would you not spend some time in prayer with yourselves and families? Behold a worse plague is upon you, the plague of sin, and will you not pray? IX) Suppose, upon every omission of family prayer you should lose a limb, or member of your body, first one finger, then a toe should be cut or torn off, till all be gone, and you dismembered; would not this force you to this duty? and yet your precious souls, which are ten thousand times more worth than a limb, yea, ' than the whole body, are in hazard by willful neglect. X) Suppose a gallows were set at your door, and you must be hanged thereupon the next time you go out of your door, when you have not prayed in your family; would you venture to be hanged rather than omit this duty? do you love your lives no better? Oh! but eternal death is far more dreadful, and are eternal torments, that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, nothing to you? Is the second death easy?"

Return to these questions whenever you feel yourself spiritually or physically slothful when it comes to daily family worship. May God use these to spur you on in faith and obedience for his great name's sake.

V. THE BLESSINGS OF FAMILY WORSHIP

In closing up this section, let me give you six blessings of family worship to consider:

I) *Daily family worship will glorify God, which is why you exist and therefore will bring you and your family great joy* (Isaiah 43:7). "Everyone who is called by my name. . . I created for my glory." II) *Daily family worship will soberly remind you and your family of both the sinfulness of sin and the sufficiency of Christ* (Romans 6:23). "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." III) *Daily family worship will constantly nourish you and your family with spiritual food* (Matthew 4:4). "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." IV) *Daily family worship will help you and your family keep your eyes fixed on Christ and his kingdom* (Colossians 3:2). "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." V) *Daily family worship will instruct you and your family as to what is right and wrong, and therefore equip you to love God and neighbor in holiness* (Psalm 119:105). "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." VI) *Daily family worship will give you a clear conscience in life and death* (Acts 20:26-27). "I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

Will you say with Joshua, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord?" I pray to God you will for Christ's sake. If you have not made family worship a daily practice in your home, today is the day. Start today and never look back. Remember what Richard Cecil said: "Let family worship be short, savory, simple, plain, tender, and

heavenly.” It does not need to be more than 10-20 minutes, especially at the beginning. You and your family will more glorify God and your joy will increase in Christ. If you have made daily family worship a priority, praise the Lord and press on. Godly men are devoted to family worship.

III. GODLY MEN WILL EVEN WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Many examples are given in the Scriptures that show godly men worshiping the Lord God outside of the temple, synagogue, or church building. *Jehoshaphat had the soldiers worship the LORD as they marched into battle* (2 Chronicles 20:21) “And when [Jehoshaphat] had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, ‘Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.’” *David gave thanks to the LORD not only in the temple but in the presence of the nations that did not yet worship God* (Psalm 57:9). “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.” *Paul and Silas were such constant worshippers that they could not be silenced even while afflicted in a prison* (Acts 16:25). “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them...” What happened next? God saved the jailer and his household. Godly men will even worship the Lord in the public square.

IV. GODLY MEN ARE DEVOTED TO PRIVATE WORSHIP

David worshiped God privately (Psalm 5:3) “O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.” *The sons of Korah worshiped God in private* (Psalm 88:13). “But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.” *Daniel worshiped God in his upper chamber* (Daniel 6:10). “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.” *Peter worshiped God in secret, on housetops* (Acts 10:9). “Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.” *Christ himself worshiped God privately during his earthly ministry* (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.” “But [Jesus] would withdraw to desolate places and pray.” *Christ himself told us to worship God in secret* (Matthew 6:6). “But when you pray, go into your room

and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Godly men are devoted to worship the Lord in private.

QUESTION. What should I do when I worship the Lord in private?

ANSWER I) *Worship the Lord in private by confessing your sins and acting faith in Christ.* “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:6-10). “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). “If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18). Because of these Scriptures, I say we should begin our time of private worship by confessing our sins and acting faith in Christ Jesus, who is the propitiation for our sins and our Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1-2).

Richard Capel said, “No man was ever kept out of Heaven for his confessed wickedness, but many are for their supposed goodness!” Pause and meditate. Do you suppose you are good? Why then would you go to worship the Lord without first confessing your sins? Let us remind ourselves of our state before God by confessing our sins and looking up to Christ in faith when we privately go to the throne of grace. In addition to all of this, Richard Sibbes said, “Confession is verbal humiliation.” Would you like a humble frame of spirit when you approach the Lord? Then let us humble ourselves by confessing our sins at the outset of our time of private worship. Worship the Lord in private by confessing your sins and acting faith in Christ and him crucified.

II) *Worship the Lord in private by prayers of adoration and thanksgiving* (Psalm 86:12). “I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.”

III) *Worship the Lord in private by studying the Scriptures.* Read carefully this portion of the longest Psalm in the Bible and ask yourself, does David seem like he does a cursory reading of the Scriptures or does it seem like he is studying them in depth?

Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

for it is ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.
I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.
How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:97-105)

How about the prophet Jeremiah—does he seem like he is glazing over a chapter or two (Jeremiah 15:16)? “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.” How about the Bereans (Acts 17:11)? “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” Where the Bible speaks, God speaks. Therefore worship the Lord in private not just by reading the Scriptures, but by devouring them and being mastered by them.

IV) *Worship the Lord in private by memorizing the Scriptures* (Psalm 119:98). “Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.” Why is David wiser? Because God’s Word is ever with him. How is it ever with him? Because he has it memorized. Earlier in his song David says, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11). Christ memorized the Scriptures, else how did he quote them to Satan to resist temptation? else how did he so constantly say his favorite phrase, “it is written” and then blast forth a divine oracle? else how did he cry out on the cross, “My God, My God. Why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1)?

If you want to be like Jesus, memorize the Bible. Set a bar, as low as you need to for now in order to be successful. However, do not leave the bar low. Labor to memorize verses, sections, even whole books of the Bible. Start small and grow your heart store. If you store God’s Word in your heart, you can open it whenever you want to access the treasure. If you store up God’s Word in your heart, when your heart gets broken you

will leak out the healing balm of the promises of God. If you store up God's word in your heart, when you are pricked with sickness or suffering, you will, like John Bunyan, "bleed bibline," to the glory of God. Worship the Lord in private by memorizing the Scriptures.

V) *Worship the Lord in private by catechizing yourself.* The word *catechize* comes from the New Testament word for *instruct*. To catechize means to teach by using questions and answers, like set forth in *The Baptist Catechism* of 1693, *An Orthodox Catechism* of 1680, or *The Baptist Catechism for Boys and Girls*. The apostle says there are "elementary doctrines" (or *principles*) of the faith (Hebrews 6:1). Paul writes, "You have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed" (Romans 6:17). God says through Paul to Timothy, "Follow the pattern of sound words which you heard from me" (2 Timothy 1:13). Paul tells the Church at Thessalonica, "Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us" (2 Thessalonians 2:15). There are some truths basic and foundation to Christianity, and catechisms have been written to help believers memorize them. For help in learning and teaching the catechisms, get Thomas Watson's three books where he preaches through the Westminster Shorter Catechism (A Body of Divinity, The Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, all published by *Banner of Truth*). Get also Thomas Boston's first two volumes of his works, titled *A Complete Body of Divinity* where he preaches through the entire Westminster Shorter Catechism in even more depth than Watson (*Reformation Heritage* has recently republished Boston's works, thank God). Worship the Lord in private by catechizing yourself, so you can memorize the most important questions and answers in the world.

VI) *Worship the Lord in private by meditating on the truths revealed in Scriptures* (Psalm 119:97). "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." God commands us to meditate, through Paul when he says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, *think about these things*" (Philippians 4:8, emphasis mine). Meditation is a lost art that needs to be recovered by Christ's sheep. "Remember that it is not hasty reading, but serious meditation on holy and heavenly truths, that makes them prove sweet and profitable to the soul. It is not the mere touching of the flower by the bee that gathers honey, but her abiding for a time on the flower that draws out the sweet. It is not he that reads most, but he that meditates most, that will prove to be the choicest, sweetest, wisest and strongest Christian" (Thomas Brooks). Thomas Watson, in his small book on the diligence use of the means of grace, *Heaven Taken by Storm*, defines Christian meditation like this:

“In meditation there are two things: 1. A Christian's retiring of himself, a locking himself up from the world. Meditation is a work which cannot be done in a crowd. 2. It is a serious thinking upon God. It is not a few transient thoughts that are quickly gone—but a fixing and staying of the mind upon heavenly objects: this cannot be done without exciting all the powers of our souls, and offering violence to ourselves.”

Watson goes on to help us with suggestions concerning what to mediate on:

“i) Meditate seriously upon the corruption of your nature. ii) Meditate seriously upon the death and passion of Christ. iii) Meditate on your evidences for heaven. iv) Meditate upon the uncertainty of all earthly comforts. v) Meditate on God's severity against sin. vi) Meditate on eternal life.”

I would add, vii) Meditate seriously on the Law of God. viii) Mediate seriously on the promises of God. ix) Meditate seriously on the attributes of God. “The reason we come away so cold from reading the word is, because we do not warm ourselves at the fire of meditation” (Watson). Do not come away from private worship with your heart cold because you refused to meditate on divine truths. Worship the Lord by meditating on the truths of the Scriptures.

VII) *Worship the Lord in private by reading good books that help you better understand and apply the Scriptures* (2 Timothy 4:13). “When you come, bring the... books, and above all the parchments.” If Paul needed books so do you and I. Charles Spurgeon once said,

“Brethren, what is true of ministers is true of all our people. You need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible. We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, ‘Bring the books’—join in the cry.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Paul Paul-His Cloak and His Books*, <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/paul-his-cloak-and-his-books/#flipbook/>

Make certain the books you read are, to the best of your knowledge, those that will help you better understand and apply the Bible for God's glory, other's gladness, and your good. Listen to Richard Baxter, who, in *A Christian Directory*, has an entire chapter devoted to *Reading Other Books*. To begin this section he writes:

“Because God hath made the excellent, holy writings of his servants, the singular blessing of this land and age; and many a one may have a good book, even any day or hour of the week, that cannot at all have a good preacher; I advise all God's servants to be thankful for so great a mercy, and to make use of it, and be much in reading: for reading, with most, doth more conduce to knowledge than hearing doth, because you may choose what subjects and the excellentest treatises you please; and may be often at it, and may peruse again and again what you forget, and may take time as you go to fix it on your mind: and with very many it doth more than hearing also to move the heart, though hearing of itself in this hath the advantage; because lively books may be easilier had than lively preachers. Especially these sorts of men should be much in reading: 1. Masters of families, that have more souls to care for than their own. 2. People that live where there is no preaching, or as bad or worse than none. 3. Poor people, and servants, and children, that are forced on many Lord's days to stay at home, whilst others have the opportunity to hear. 4. And vacant persons that have more leisure than others have.”

— Richard Baxter, *A Christian Directory* (complete - Volume 1, 2, 3 & 4 of 4): A SUM OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY AND CASES OF CONSCIENCE . Transcript. Kindle Edition.

Baxter then proceeds to give Thirteen Directions to help Christians with the reading of helpful books. By the way, I think every Christian household should have at least one copy of Baxter's *A Christian Directory* (*Soli Deo Gloria, Reformation Heritage*). I implore you to make use of the mercy God has given us in books that help us better understand and apply the Scriptures. And to be clear, I must say I agree with Spurgeon when he told his people, “study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers.” I strongly encourage you to read the Puritans as you worship the Lord in private by reading solid books.

VIII) *Worship the Lord in private by self-examination* (1 Corinthians 11:28). “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” Concerning self-examination, Watson writes,

“Self-examination is the setting up a court, in conscience and keeping a register there, that by strict scrutiny a man may know how things stand between God and his own soul. Self-examination is a spiritual inquisition; a bringing one's self to trial. A good Christian does as it were, begin the day of Judgment here in his own soul. Self-searching is a heart-anatomy. As a surgeon, when he makes a dissection in the body, discovers the inward parts, the heart, liver, and arteries—just so, a Christian anatomizes himself; he searches what is flesh and what is spirit; what is sin, and what is grace.”

—Thomas Watson, *Heaven Taken By Storm* (*Soli Deo Gloria*)

God says in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is

in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” Do you listen? Worship the Lord in private by self-examination.

IX) *Worship the Lord in private by prayers of petition* (Psalm 88:1). “O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you. Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!” Every good and perfect gift comes from God himself (James 1:17), and he commands us to make our requests known to him (Philippians 4:6). Do you know how to petition the Lord in prayer? Petition God or you will be a former beggar now living in a palace yet still acting like you are in need of alms. “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2). Do you know the substance of the Lord’s Prayer that Christ taught his disciples? If not, learn it. Use it. Read Thomas Watson and Thomas Boston on *The Lord’s Prayer*, as they instruct you from the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and you will be better equipped. Worship the Lord in private by prayers of petition.

John Angier, Oliver Heywood’s father in law, said, “The more we worship God in secret, the fitter shall we be for family worship, and the more we worship God in our families, the fitter shall we be for public worship.” Amen. I would simply add to that, *the fitter we shall be for heaven!* Godly men are devoted to private worship.

V. GODLY MEN ARE DEVOTED TO OBEDIENT WORSHIP

Transitioning out of the doctrines of the gospel and into the ethical instructions that necessarily follow, Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” God teaches us in these two short verses that worship is about more than public, private, or family spiritual offerings; worship is also about the most mundane to the most extraordinary things we do every day in obedience to God our Father, in the name of Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now hear me: worship is about more than singing, praying, etc., not less.

QUESTION. What does a godly man look like as he worships God by obedience?

ANSWER I) *A godly man leads a worshipful life motivated by the mercies of God* (Romans 12:1a). II) *He does not just worship God through reading, meditating, praying, and singing, but also through offering his very body as a continual living*

sacrifice to the Lord (Romans 12:1b). III) A Godly man, as a living sacrifice, labors to be holy and acceptable to God in all that he does (Romans 12:1c). Chrysostom said,

“How is the body to become a sacrifice? Let thine eye look upon no evil thing, and it hath become a sacrifice; let thy tongue speak nothing filthy, and it hath become an offering; let thy hand do no lawless deed, and it hath become a whole burnt offering. But this is not enough, we must do good works also; let the hand do alms, the mouth bless them that despitefully use us, and the ear find leisure evermore for the hearing of Scripture. For sacrifice can be made only of that which is clean; sacrifice is a firstfruit of other actions. Let us, then, from our hands, and feet, and mouth, and all our other members, yield a firstfruit unto God.”

IV) A godly man, as a holy and acceptable living sacrifice, knows this is the only reasonable response to the mercies of God (Romans 12:1d).

QUESTION. What does a living sacrifice look like?

ANSWER I) *A living sacrifice is not conformed to this world (Romans 12:2a). II) A living sacrifice is transformed by the renewing of their mind (Romans 12:2b). III) A living sacrifice tests all things to discern what the revealed will of God is (Romans 12:2c). IV) A living sacrifice obeys the revealed will of God because it is good, acceptable, and perfect (Romans 12:2d). John Howe wrote that, “Christians are temple, priests, and sacrifices, all at once; as our Lord himself, in his peculiar sacrificing, also was.” Amen. Godly men are devoted to obedient worship.*

CONCLUSION

For the glory of God, the good of our families, and the gladness of ourselves, may we be godly men who devote ourselves to public, family, public square, private, and obedient worship remembering that the Lord is worthy of it all. May God the Father strengthen us in the name of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to happily obey Psalm 29:2 both now and forever: “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.”

written by

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www.EkklesiaMuskogee.church

www.Shepherd-School.com