Open your Bibles to Joshua 24:15.

- •We'll be starting there this morning. But we'll be looking at many different texts before we're through.
- •I'm preaching topically for this month (maybe longer). And I'll be trying to hit subjects and doctrines that I think will be helpful to us as a church.

People often start the New Year with resolutions.

•And I've got one for all of us: Resolved, to incorporate DAILY FAMILY WORSHIP in my home.

Now, let me define Family Worship.

- •One theologian put it this way: "Family worship is the regular use of Scripture, song, and prayer by a family unit, guided by the head of the household."
 - •That's a great definition.
- •Family Worship is just that: The daily worship of God in families.

Now, let's have a show of hands. How many of you grew up with Family Worship in your homes?

- •This once common practice has fallen out of use in modern times among even very godly Christians.
- •Most Evangelicals don't even know what it is. I had to read about it in a book.

And you know what? While neglecting Family Worship is a very big problem in our day, it's been a problem for a while.

- •In the Preface to our Confession, our forefathers wrote:
 - "And verily there is one spring and cause of the

DECAY OF RELIGION IN OUR DAY which we cannot but touch upon and earnestly urge a redress of, and that is THE NEGLECT OF THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN FAMILIES by those to whom the charge and conduct of them is committed."

- •That's pretty wild to hear, isn't it?
- •Baptists in 1677 claimed that religion was in decay in their day. And the biggest reason for that was the neglect of Family Worship.
 - •I wonder what they'd have to say about us in 2024?

As goes the family, so goes the Church.

- •And as goes the Church, so goes the nation.
- •If our families don't worship God together, how zealous can the Church, made up of people in families, be for the worship of God?
- •And if the Church isn't zealous for the Lord, how much of an impact can we have on our culture for Christ?

Many of you who are aware of this practice, even though you didn't grow up with it, have asked me to pray for you in this area for various reasons.

- •So, in addition to my prayers, I decided to preach about Family Worship to try and be helpful to you.
- •What I hope to do this morning is instruct you and show you the biblical duty to worship God in the home.

I'll be speaking to fathers throughout this sermon.

- •But wives, single mothers, childless families, unmarried men and women, this stuff applies to you too.
 - •Use biblical discernment and common sense to see

what applies to you. And if it's not clear to you, come talk to me after the service.

To the fathers who are practicing daily Family Worship in your homes, I hope this sermon reinforces your practice and encourages you.

- •To those who don't and know they should, I hope this sermon hits it's mark and God brings you to repentance.
- •To those who are inconsistent, I hope this corrects you and helps you resolve, by God's grace, to do what you ought.
- •To those who have never been instructed in Family Worship, I hope this puts a fire under you to begin, to the glory of God.

Please stand with me now for the reading of the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

Joshua 24:15 (Last Sentence)

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

(PRAY)

Our Great God and Father,

- •We humble ourselves before you, grateful for your Word, and ask for your help this morning.
- •Please, speak to each one of us, according to our needs, and work in our hearts that we might honor you.
- •Rebuke those in sin. Instruct the ignorant. Commend the obedient. Encourage us all in your grace.
 - •Make much of yourself today. Bless the preaching of

your Word so that you might be glorified in the lives of your blood-bought People.

- •Sanctify us in the truth. Your Word is truth.
- •We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.
- •Amen.

1.) This famous statement by Joshua comes at the end of an address he gave to the heads of the houses of the tribes of Israel.

- •He declared to all fathers that they were to make a choice: Serve their idols or the LORD.
- •And in light of the mercy and covenant of God, the choice was clear: Serve God.

But, even if no one else would, Joshua would.

- •But not only Joshua. He and HIS HOUSE would serve, would worship Yahweh.
- •Brothers, that's what I'm talking about with Family Worship.
- •To paraphrase Matthew Poole, I pray that each one of us would say, "It is my firm purpose that I will, along with my wife and children, as far as I can influence them, worship and be faithful to the Lord."
- 2.) Now, let's be clear at the beginning: There is no explicit command in Scripture for Family Worship.
 - •But that doesn't mean it isn't commanded.
- •Remember, inferences and implications are part of our study of Scripture.
- •God doesn't spoon-feed us everything. He intends us to use our minds.

- •So we mustn't become biblicists who childishly demand a black-and-white verse for every doctrine or duty that God expects us to believe and obey.
 - •We don't get to tell God how He must instruct us.
- •We are to think deeply and reason through the Scriptures.

Family Worship is implied and assumed throughout Scripture.

- •So I want to briefly walk through a handful of passages and demonstrate that to be true.
 - 1. Let's begin with Abraham.
- •In Genesis 18:17-19, God says, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 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."

Part of God's call on Abraham was to instruct his family in the way of the Lord.

- •But there was no formal church yet.
- •So how did Abraham do it? The implication is that Abraham would privately instruct his own family in the ways of God.
 - •That's part of Family Worship.
 - 2. Again, with Abraham, we see that he MUST HAVE

led his family in worship.

•In Genesis 22:6-7 we read, "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?"

Isaac knew what worshipping God looked like.

- •He knew they needed fire, wood, and an animal. And he knew that animal must be slain and burned.
- •How did Isaac know what was required to properly worship of God?
- •The answer is natural: Abraham must have previously offered sacrifice with Isaac.
- •Abraham worshipped God with his family. And it must've been a regular thing because Isaac could identify a missing element of worship.
- **3.** We turn now to Deuteronomy 6:4-7 to hear God's command to fathers concerning religion:
- •"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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."

This is the INTENTIONAL RELIGIOUS

INSTRUCTION of your children.

- •Yes, it's also informal instruction. All throughout the day. Every opportunity that arises.
- •But this text tells us that we are to teach our children DILIGENTLY. That's purposeful teaching. Not just random talks in the car.
- •And if it's going to be diligent, it must be consistent. A regularly occurring thing. Daily.
- •And this diligent, daily instruction in God's Word must be given to ALL your children.
- •And what the simplest way to ensure that? To gather the whole family around the Word of God every day.
- **4.** Looking back at our text in Joshua 24:15, we read, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- •Now, to see this connection to family worship may take a bit of thinking. So follow with me:
- •Temple worship was the formal gathering for corporate worship. But many Israelites had to travel multiple days to get there. And God only commanded this a few times a year.
- •And synagogues didn't exist until after the Babylonian Captivity.
 - •So then, worshipping in families was the norm.
- •And that leads us to understand that part of serving the LORD within Joshua's house must have involved some kind of regular Family Worship.
 - **5.** And this isn't just OT stuff. This is in the NT as well.
- •In Ephesians 5:25-26 we read, "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..."

- •Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church.
- •And one of the ways that Christ loves His Church is by washing her with the pure water of the Word of God.
- •So then, one of the ways you are to love your wife is to set the Word of God before her.
 - •What is that? That's family time in Scripture.
- **6.** Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
- •That is a direct command to fathers to teach their children the ways of God.
- •To teach them true religion by example as well as explicit instruction and correction when they're wrong.

Now, fathers, when do you do this?

- •And how do you do it?
- •Without set daily times of formal instruction, how can you do this?
- •Bringing up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord doesn't happen accidentally or incidentally. It's an INTENTIONAL thing.
- •Without practicing Family Worship, this is one of those commands that fathers assume they're obeying because they take their kids to church, but they can't point to anything in their daily lives and say, "Here's the proof that I am doing as the Apostle commanded."
- **7.** My last text to prove that Family Worship is biblical is 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."
- •Many interpreters see "your prayers" as referring to the prayers of husbands and wives TOGETHER.
- •If a husband is harsh with his wife, there will be fighting in the home.
- •And because of that, the two won't pray together. Their times of prayer will be hindered.
- •I bring this text up to show that Peter seems to be assuming regular times of gathered family prayer.

Brothers and sisters, taking all these things together, I believe the conclusion is irrefutable:

- •Family Worship is to be performed in every house where its head is a Christian.
- •Fathers, God expects this of you. God expects you to lead your family daily in worship.

Furthermore, let me pose a serious question to you:

- •Without Family Worship, how are you to obey the commands given to you?
 - •How else will you teach your family the Word?
 - •How else will you teach them to worship God?
- •How else can you really say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," if there is no worship of God there?

You know, many Christians think that it's the job of the Church and Elders to teach their families the

Faith.

- •And it is...BUT NOT PRIMARILY!
- •God, in His wisdom, has placed that responsibility squarely on the shoulders of Christian fathers and husbands.
- •Your Elders are here to HELP YOU to do your job. But we're not here to do your job for you.
- •That would be a usurpation of God's authority to command you, and your God-given authority to govern your house.
 - Brothers, it's on you. God has spoken.
- **3.) So now we come to the big question:** How do you Family Worship?
- •Well, we need to begin by remembering that all worship is regulated by God's Word.
- •So the things we do at church are the things that ought to be done in our homes.
- •But there are two exceptions: Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not to be practiced in Family Worship.
- •Why? Because, first, only Elders are to administer the Sacraments. We are "stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Corinthians 4:1)
- •Second, the Sacraments are Church Ordinances. They're given to the Church, not individuals.
- •So then, they are, ordinarily, only to be celebrated in the corporate worship gathering, under the oversight of Elders.

But everything else we do in Church is fair game for Family Worship.

And those things are the Word, prayer, and singing

God's praises.

•Three things to remember: Read. Pray. Sing.

1. READ.

- •Read the Word of God to your family.
- •Read it deliberately. Don't rush through. Read with some feeling, helping them to follow along. Highlight important parts with your voice, if you're able.

How long of a text should you read? That depends on how much your children can handle.

- •In my house we do one chapter per day, but break it in half if the flow of the chapter allows it and it's over fifty verses. (But my daughter can also handle that.)
- •Maybe you need to read only a few verses because your little ones cant sit still for long.

Some people choose to read through whole books. (That's what I do.)

- •Others read themes over time: The miracles of Jesus. The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The Ten Plagues of Egypt. All relevant texts on a particular doctrine.
- •Those with small children sometimes like to stick to narratives and read the famous accounts of people and events so they get a feel for the whole narrative of the Bible.

Really, there's no wrong way to do this.

- •Just make you sure you give them the Bible and the WHOLE Bible.
 - •Don't avoid things that are tough or shocking. If it's in

there, God wants your whole family to know it.

And after reading, comment on the text if you can.

- •I'm not saying that you need to prepare a formal lesson or preach a sermon.
- •Just show how the text points to Christ. Tell the Gospel.
 - Apply the commands and warnings to your family.
- •Show them how God's promises are for them, if they'll believe.
 - •And do this in a way that the children can understand.

But if you can't do this, let me say three things:

- 1. Study the Bible more for yourself. You must instruct your family in the Word to some degree. And if you can't do that at all, you need to learn more yourself.
- 2. Use resources like the Family Worship Bible Guide to help direct your conversations after reading.
- **3.** If you don't know what to say, or the text is really hard, just tell your family and move on. Just read it and say, "I don't know this means for us. So let's pray that God would grow us all in the knowledge of His Word. (This is what we all have to do sometimes, isn't it?)
 - •Just make sure you're reading the Bible to them.

2. PRAY

- •This needs little comment.
- •Take individual and family needs before the Lord as a family.
- •Ask for forgiveness for sins, strength against temptation, grace to do what God commands, and the like.

- •Pray for others: Your pastors, missionaries, church members, extended family, the lost.
 - Pray for each family member individually.
 - •Pray taking cues from the Scripture that was read.
- •Maybe keep a list of people and things to pray for regularly.
- •Praise God and offer thanksgiving to Him for His kindness to your family.

Now, practically, our family does what I call "Pray or Pass."

- •I ask everyone individually if they'd like to "pray or pass," giving each one an opportunity to pray, but not forcing anyone to pray aloud. (I don't believe forced worship is legitimate worship.)
 - •And then I pray last to close the time of prayer.
- •Other families have the father take prayer requests and then he prays on behalf of the whole family as a minister does at church.
 - •But, as with reading, there is no wrong answer here.
 - •Just pray together as a family.

3. SING

- •I resisted this one for a couple of years. I didn't think it was necessary. I thought it was too weird to sing in my living room with my family. (Most people feel the same way.)
- •But singing is part of God's ordained worship. And worship is to happen in the home. So singing should happen there.

Listen to the Scriptures on this.

- •Psalm 118:15: "Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous..."
 - •God's People sing His praises in their homes.
- •And Colossians 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- •Part of the ministry of the Word is singing the Word. And the Word is to be ministered in the home.

In my house, we choose one hymn or psalm per week and sing it daily, so our four-year-old can memorize it.

- •We look up the lyrics online and save them in notes on our phones.
- •Other families buy hymnals and each member who can read takes one.

What about music?

- •Sure, use musical accompaniment if you'd like and have a musician in the home.
- •Some people prefer to play a song on a speaker and sing along because a cappella is too awkward for them.
- •My family just sings without music and have grown to love the simplicity.

If the idea of singing together seems awkward to you, I challenge you to do it for one week.

- After about three days, it's normal.
- •Friends, singing God's praises warms the heart, prepares you to receive the Word read and taught, and sticks Bible truth in your heads in a way that reading

usually won't.

•So sing!

Brothers, reading, praying, and singing are the only things I can say that you must do.

- •BUT, if you have time and are able, there is more you can do in Family Worship.
- •I strongly recommend teaching your family to memorize a catechism, the creeds, and parts of our Confession.
- •Get this stuff stuck in their heads early and it won't quickly leave.
- •It'll pay off in conversations as your children get older. And you'll learn too.
- •(If you'd like to know how I help my daughter to memorize stuff, come see me after church.)

Let me give you some pointers before I move on:

- **1. Be brief.** Family Worship doesn't need to be a church service. Shoot for 10-30 minutes, depending on what your little ones can handle.
- **2. Be regular**. As Joel Beeke says, "Fight every enemy of family worship." Make it a top priority.
- **3. Be real.** Do what works in your family with regard to time, schedule, and particulars of worship. Every family is different.

On the Resource Table, I've put a Proposed Liturgy for Family Worship.

- •It's robust and usually takes my family 20-25 minutes.
- •And if any of you would like a demonstration of Family Worship, I'd love to have your family over to join us.

4.) Now, when people hear of Family Worship, objections and questions will come up.

- •I'd like to address some of them now.
- 1. "We don't have enough time."
- •If that's what you're thinking, let me ask you something:
- •Do you watch TV? Do you scroll your phone? Do you practice any hobbies?
- •Do you have fifteen to thirty minutes free each day when your family is around?
- •I bet you do. You just don't want to obey this command.
- •The truth is, you do have the time. Or you could make the time. You could bring to a halt unnecessary family activities. You could say "no" to certain things in order to say "yes" to Family Worship.
- •But you'd rather seek worldly pleasure. And so you're open to the charge of the Apostle in 2 Timothy 3:4.
- •In this area you have become "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."
- •Repent and change the family schedule if you need to, brother.
- **2.** "I just lost my temper with a family member." OR "I've sinned badly today."
 - Brother, your sin doesn't relieve you of your duty.
- •To neglect Family Worship is to compound sin upon sin.
- •Repent and ask for forgiveness from God. And apologize if you've wronged a family member. And then

move on.

- •Don't run away from God in those moments. Run to Him in repentance and faith and WORSHIP HIM for His unbounded mercy given to you in Christ.
- **3.** "Family members' schedules conflict. So we can't all be together every day."
- Change the time of Family Worship for a day or season.
- •If that won't solve the problem, maybe the thing that's keeping a child or parent away needs removed.
- •And if that's not possible, do the best you can with the most of the family you can.
- •And then, to some degree, privately worship with whoever couldn't make the family time.
- **4.** "Because of work, my husband isn't home when the family is."
 - •That's a tough one. And you have my sympathy.
- •Wife/Mom, you lead the time of worship, then. When he's home, he'll lead it.
- •Your situation is not ideal, but in the event that the head of the house isn't present, such duties fall to you, his second in command.
- •And be comforted: God will give special grace for special circumstances, as you seek to honor Him.
 - And He always honors His Word and worship.
- **5.** "My children are babies. They're too little to understand. So what's the point?"
 - •God is still worthy, isn't He?
 - •And the littlest ones are indeed learning things: The

Bible is important. Daily worship is a normal part of the Faith. Religion is every day, not just Sunday.

- •If we could pretend to know the mind of the infant, maybe he would say, "I don't know what they're saying. I like the songs. And that Book gets opened every day. That Book must be special."
 - •You're training even the littlest.
- **6.** "I don't have kids in the home. So I don't need to do this."
- •You still have family, though. A husband and wife constitute a family. And families are to worship God.
- •And to the single Christian: You are to worship God privately each day, anyway.
 - 7. "I'm not good at this."
 - •Brother, you'll get better. Keep at it.
 - •It's like anything else. Nobody is great at first.
- •But you'll get more comfortable. You'll grow in your own understanding of Scripture. You'll grow more confident in your role as leader.
- •It will come together over time. Just give it time and cry out to God for help. He is faithful.
- **8.** "I'm ashamed. I know I should do it, but I've failed for so long. How can I start now?"
- •OR "I've tried before and fell off. How do I tell my family we must start again?"
- •My dear brother, Christ has more grace than you have sin. He forgives those who repent and come to him.
- •There is no better time than now to amend your ways and walk in righteousness.

- •So go to your family and say, "I realize I've not been doing what I should. But this is what God wants. I have a lot to learn and I feel like I don't know what I'm doing. But I must start now. Join me. Pray for me."
 - •And then BEGIN!

5.) Now, brothers, I've spent a lot of time this morning proving, explaining, and defending Family Worship.

- •I've been doing a lot of teaching. And now I intend to preach to your hearts and move you action.
- •Let's consider now the motivations behind practicing Family Worship.

Brothers, you are the Redeemed of God!

- •You are the ones given by the Father to the Son, for whom the Son of God came into the world to live and render perfect obedience for you, suffer and die in your place for your sins, and be raised from the dead that you might be reconciled to God.
- •You are beloved by God from all eternity. Cared for by Him. Saved by Him. Sanctified by Him. Preserved and kept by Him. And you will one day be glorified by Him.
- •You are His special possession. Chosen by sovereign grace and holy love.
- •Though you deserve nothing but death and Hell for your sins, He has cast your sins behind His back and shown you steadfast love.
- •He has been good to you. Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so!

He has saved you by His grace.

- •He picked you up and made you His own, when He had every right to cast you away forever.
 - •He has loved you with a steadfast and unfailing love.
 - •He has been nothing but good to you all your life.
 - All you have on earth is from His hand.
- •And He has promised you blessings forevermore through Jesus Christ.
 - •All by His grace. All freely given to you.

You love Him, don't you?

- •I know you do.
- •Your heart burns within your chest for Him. Your eyes well up with tears when you consider His kindness.
 - •O, Christian, give Him what He asks!
- •In love for Him, for He loved you first, give Him His due! Obey Him! Walk in His ways!
- •Family Worship is what He wants from you. So give it freely, as He has freely saved you from your sins!

And you want others to know Him as you do, don't you?

- You want to see sinners come to Christ.
- •Brothers, start with your unconverted children! Lead them to Christ! Make that your goal above all else!
- •You have a mission field in your living room. The fields are white for harvest!
- •God uses means to bring His Elect to Christ. And Family Worship is one of them He is often pleased to use to convert the children of believers.
- •Put the Word of God before your children. And pray to the sovereign God to make it effectual to their salvation.
 - •The Apostle said, "So faith comes from hearing, and

hearing through the Word of Christ."

•So set the blessed Word before them every day!

And you want your fellow Christians to grow, don't you?

- •You want to see the Christ's People grow in godliness and practical holiness.
 - •And how do we grow? The Word and prayer!
- •Our Lord prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
- •So put the Word before your wife and converted children, that they might grow in Christlikeness!
- •Give them the warnings of Scripture. Talk to them about sound doctrine. Turn their hearts toward their Lord each day.
- •And pray with them! Call upon the Lord with them. Teach them to pray. Show them that they can pray about every need.
- •Help your little brothers and sisters, and your wife grow in the Lord!

As a Christian, you desire a clean conscience before the Lord, don't you?

- •To know that He approves of you is worth everything to the believer.
- •Well, then, do as He commands and receive your commendation from God!
- •To be able to end each day, saying, "I was not perfect today, but I know at least one thing I did that the Lord was pleased with," is a valuable thing.
- •But to knowingly neglect this command will surely result in anguish of soul for you. The Lord will rob you of

peace until you repent.

Brothers, Family Worship does not ensure the conversion and salvation of your children.

- •As Jonah said, "Salvation is of the LORD."
- •But you ought to be able to say, with regard to your children, "If they aren't converted, it's not because I didn't tell them the truth. Every day I warned them of sin and Hell and set Christ and His Gospel before them. If they go their own way and perish in their sins, it's because they rejected everything I placed before them daily."
- •One man of old said this to his children: "I do believe that not one of you will dare to meet me at the tribunal of Christ in an unregenerate state."
- •That is, "I've raised you in such a way that if you die in your sins, you won't dare accuse me of neglecting my duty to teach you the Faith."

Brothers, that is our goal!

- •God must do the saving. But our goal is to have a clean conscience concerning the souls of our children.
- •God forbid, if one of your children dies unconverted, will you have a clean conscience?
- •If you neglect your duty toward them, I guarantee you will not!

Let me ask you a question: Do you hate your children?

- •Surely, you don't! I think every dad in here sincerely loves his children.
 - •So love them the best way! Love their souls!

- •What good is it to provide for their earthly needs but neglect their eternal souls?
- •You love your children. So love them in the deepest way you can. Set Christ before them every day!

Fathers, time is short.

- •And your families will die.
- Prepare them! Prepare them to meet the Lord.
- •If all you do is provide the basic necessities of life and prepare your family for death, you were a good and faithful husband and father.
 - •So teach them! Lead them to Christ! Open the Book!

Now, with all that said, don't you want to do this?

- •Don't you want to implement Family Worship?
- You love God. You love your family.
- •Reason compels it. Love fuels it. God commands it.
- •So do it!

6.) As I near a close, let me encourage you further by being honest with you, father-to-father.

- •It won't always be easy. And it won't always look perfect.
- •There have been many times that right after ending Family Worship, I've had to spank my child for being unruly or irreverent.
- •And there isn't hardly an evening where I don't have to stop, demand silence or stillness, and threaten discipline for disobedience.
- •Your kids won't turn into angels the moment you open your Bible. They're sinners just like you.
 - You'll get frustrated at times.

•But do it anyway.

Family Worship won't ensure the conversion of your children.

- •God is often pleased to save His People generationally and uses Family Worship as a means.
 - But salvation is all of His sovereign will.
- •But your duty is to obey God in this matter and leave the results up to Him.
 - So do it anyway.

It won't always feel like you accomplished something.

- •Sometimes Family Worship will simply feel routine and even mundane.
- •But God works through ordinary means. He is often pleased to use words and faithfulness over a long period of time to accomplish wonderful things.
 - •Trees don't grow overnight.
 - So do it anyway.

Practicing Family Worship won't save you.

- •It won't make you righteous before God. It won't take away a single sin.
- •Only Christ can do that for you. Only His life. Only His death. Only His resurrection.
- •It's by His merits that you're saved. Not your obedience.
 - •Don't become a Pharisee in this.
- •But since you've been saved by Christ, worship Him in your family!
 - •Express your gratitude through obedience, not seeking

to justify yourself, but seeking to say "thank you" by your way of life.

In closing, let me exhort you:

- •Negligent fathers, repent.
- •Ignorant fathers, begin.
- •Inconsistent fathers, start over.
- Consistent fathers, continue.
- •And what better day than today? The Sabbath itself.

May God work in our hearts that we might lead our families for His glory.

Amen.