

calling on his name publicly, in every proper place. If disciples of the Lord would attend more devoutly to their private devotions, they would not require to be urged to the attendance of other duties.

Why should christians habitually examine themselves, read and meditate on the word of the Lord, and call devoutly on his name in secret? We answer—because the Lord Jesus and the Apostles command it; reason and common sense decree that it is a duty connected with our present and future happiness.

The next *place* of worship is the family. Persons who do not pray in secret, or in their families, are rather an injury than a benefit to a church of Christ. Where only one of the heads of a family are religious there may be some excuse for non-attendance on this duty; and then only when there is a decided opposition on the part of the other. If one partner would see the other a disciple of the Lord, let them pray—let the other hear their prayers, and see their conduct corresponding with them, and they will not long labor in vain. But when the heads of a family are members of the same congregation of the Lord, how they can excuse themselves for neglecting family worship is to us a mystery. Such persons cannot attend regularly to secret prayer—do not read their bibles; for if they did, they would feel so conscious of their neglect of duty, that they would realize but little benefit resulting from their devotions.

But one of our ultra reformers may perhaps inquire, does the word of the Lord require this? Hear the facts developed. Family worship was the first instituted worship; this is the most obvious fact in the old testament. The Israelites were required to worship daily—remember their daily sacrifices. Where shall christians daily attend to the worship of God, if not in their families? Were the Jewish daily sacrifices typical of nothing!! Solomon says, “train up a child in the way in which he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it;” and Paul instructs parents to bring up their children in the nurture [correction] and admonition of the Lord.” Now if any who do not approve of constant family education and prayer, will shew us how we can train up our children in the way in which they should go, in the correction and instruction of the Lord, without daily calling on the name of the Lord and devoutly reading the scriptures in their presence, we will give him a few pages to enlighten us. The truth is, we do not believe it possible.

The Lord has given some plain instructions which we cannot misunderstand. We are taught that we should “pray every where,” “pray for all men,” “pray always,” “without ceasing,” “in every thing” by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to the Lord,” &c. If a disciple of the Lord, who has a family can pray every where, and for all men, without praying in his family he can perform mysterious things. We must on this point express our convictions—they are, that no intelligent man can bring his mind to doubt but that it is the duty of all parents to instruct their children, and in their presence implore the protection and blessing of the Most High. If there can be a remaining doubt, inquire into the character of those