

unto God," for the express purpose that they might present to him, day by day, the offerings of thanksgiving and praise? What a privilege! Why should you deprive yourselves of a privilege so precious? Seek, like Jacob, in availing yourselves of it, to make your house a "Bethel," where God delights to dwell. Say, with Joshua, "As for me and my house," whatever others do, "we will serve the Lord." Join with David in the summons you address, from time to time, to the members of your family, "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." And when do you ask, is all this to be done? The answer is, "To-day, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

2. The training of the young for God, requires that Family Worship be observed. The up-bringing of children in the fear, and for the service of God, is one essential object of the family institution; and, for this "godly up-bringing," prayer is as necessary as are religious instruction and example. There is no more favorable channel through which religious truth may be conveyed to the mind of a child than parental instruction, provided that that instruction be accompanied by the influence of daily example. God accordingly has said, for the encouragement of parents, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." But religious "training" consists mainly, as you know, in the formation of religious habits and principles; and success, in the forming of these, God gives in answer to believing prayer. It is right, indeed, that instruction in the things of God should be given; but this will be comparatively of little avail, unless the character is moulded in conformity with the gospel of Christ. And how can a parent train up his child in religious habits, if he himself sets not before him the example of religion? How can he hope to make the members of his family worshippers of God, if he himself, instead of leading them daily to the family altar, teaches them by his example "to forget God? All the special influence, in such a case, assigned by God to a parent, for promoting the spiritual well-being of his offspring, is lost, and what was designed in the highest sense, for good, is, by the neutralising influence of parental example, turned to evil. And what a calamity is thus entailed, extending, not to the existing generation merely, but to those that follow! Say, ye who act in this way towards your children, is it thus you show your affection for them? Is it thus you discharge the solemn vows you undertook on their behalf, when you dedicated them to the Lord in baptism? Are not your children "God's heritage," which he has a right to expect you will take care of for him? Has not the Saviour said to you, in regard to your young ones, "Suffer them to come unto me?" And shall it be the case that, by your example, powerful for evil or for good, you will not "suffer" them to come unto him? Nay, rather bring them to the Saviour, under the gracious assurance. "that of such is the kingdom of heaven." And then, in your case, as in the case of others, will be fulfilled the saying,

"Race unto race shall praise thy works,
And show thy mighty deeds."

3. God's dealings with families, as such, call for their daily worship of him. It cannot be doubted that, with an adjusting hand, God's dis-