

every pastor the opportunity from the pulpit and in his pastoral class to put the responsibility of child-religion where the Word of God puts it, upon the Christian home, and to strengthen what remains of the family life in our own homes.

I think that the most optimistic of us must admit, that the moral and spiritual power of the home is enfeebled by the many outside organizations; that the decay of the home life is the spiritual danger of America as a country; that the substitutes for home life, the boarding house life, society life, and the outside organizations, these fail to produce the best types of character, because the father and the mother are the child's earliest as they are the child's best teachers after all; and it is the luxury of preaching Sunday after Sunday on that one principle, that seems to me one of the great elements of strength leading up to what is called "Decision Day."

The first truth that we emphasized was this, that obedience must begin in the home, that morality must begin in the home, that spirituality must begin in the home before you can get it into the School on "Decision Day." The work of the Church, the work of the Sabbath School, the work of the Endeavor Society begin too late in life, and the boy or girl will not amount to anything on "Decision Sabbath," anything permanent, if the home is not behind us in this great movement. And, of course, this opens a very complex line of thought, and yet, a line of thought that can be made very blessedly simple in leading up to this day. For instance, to have permanent effect and results on "Decision Day," children ought to come from a home where husband and wife together are bearing the burden, and where both believe in this child-religion and are praying up to it and are leading up to it. And here comes a blessed opportunity of the pulpit, and I look back to two Sundays spent on this thought, pleading with the father and with the mother from the desk, that both parents ought themselves to become Christians in order that, when "Decision Day" came, we might be able to do all for the children that such a united front and such a united force would give us. Moreover, I am delighted to say that men whose hearts had not been touched on other lines were touched by that, and sometimes I suspect the Church is positively suffering from one-sided religious culture, which comes from not having the mother as a spiritual factor in the home.

Who can overestimate, who can underestimate, the mother's part in the intellectual, and in the moral and spiritual life of the child in preparing that child for "Decision Day?" "What preaching was it that converted you?" said one man to another. He answered, "No preaching but my mother's practicing," and so one ounce of mother is worth a pound of parson. Very early life comes, school commences, and rubs out, as a sponge rubs out the figures on a slate, the influence of the preacher; but all eternity cannot rub out a mother's kiss; all eternity cannot rub out the memory of a prayer learned at a mother's knee.