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Miscellaneous Articles.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

(Continued from page 35.)

II. What are the advantages of Family Worship? These are many and great, but we shall confine our attention to the following:—

I. It tends to promote personal and family piety.

True piety consists in proper views of God's character and proper dispositions to him, to Christ, and all things that respect the Divine glory. If family religion exists, and if family worship is observed regularly and properly, it must increase our knowledge of, and our reverence and love for, the Divine character. Our minds are daily conversant with the glorious and awful perfections of God. We come to him, as our Creator and Preserver, "who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders." We come to him who is the searcher of hearts, before whose eyes all things are naked and open—to him, who has every needed, and suitable blessing to confer. The exercises of the soul in prayer, must be in themselves, as well as from the blessings which they draw down from God most salutary and ennobling. We cannot in a right spirit, hold communion with the Father of our spirits and the former of our bodies—with God as our reconciled God and Father, without obtaining great benefit. When in holy prostration before him, we confess our sins, and ask forgiveness, we will come to have the most humbling views of sin—we will be brought to view it as an offence against God, as vile and abominable in his sight justly exposing us to his displeasure. There is no moment when sin appears so vile to the believer as when he is at the throne of mercy, pleading the merits and contemplating the glories of the cross of Christ. Then too, holiness becomes most beautiful and glorious, and we are led to love it more, and to seek it more than at any other time. Can we daily contemplate God's holiness, and not be led to admire and imitate it—to strive to comply with his command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy?" Can we think of his mercy to sinners, and not be led to desire it for ourselves, and seek it also for those who are near and dear to us? Can we remember his promises—which are yea and amen in Christ Jesus—and not feel our love to him expanded—our faith and hope strengthened—our peace and joy increased?

Then as respects the piety and devotion of a family—our children and domestics—our praise and prayers—our supplications and thanksgivings, made daily and audibly before them—must through the blessings of God touch their hearts.