

Word read and taught, and prayer offered to Him, who is the Lord of the families who call upon His name. The advantages of family worship are great and manifold. Some of these may be briefly stated.

Commencing with the lowest, there can be no doubt that family worship is productive of temporal comfort and prosperity. It is like the ark in the house of Obed-edom. Besides the temporal blessings granted in direct answer to prayer, there is, in the exercises of family worship, a tendency to promote worldly comfort and happiness. These exercises ensure greater regularity in domestic arrangements, more dutiful behaviour on the part of children, and greater fidelity on the part of servants—all which are conducive to temporal prosperity.

Family worship is fitted also to produce peace and harmony between the different members of a household. Is not the melody of sacred song fitted to banish strife, as the harp of David expelled the evil spirit of Saul? Is not the reading of such commands as, "Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another," "Let not the sun go down on your wrath," fitted to restrain hatred and produce good will? How can any be so hardened as to continue, day after day, to pray "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," while they refuse to forgive the offences of those even who live beneath the same roof?

From the exercises of family worship the several members of the household may derive peculiar benefits. In these the head of the family will find a motive to consistency of life; for how can he be so seared in conscience as to join with his household morning and evening in prayer, and spend the interval in immorality and irreligion? To the children the advantages are incalculably great. Not to speak of the blessings which believing prayer secures for them, how can they fail to derive profit from reading every year seven or eight hundred chapters of the Word of God? It may surely be hoped that although much may be forgotten, yet some will be remembered and produce good fruit in future years, when, it may be, the father's gray hairs are mouldering in the grave. Servants and occasional visitants also may, by a few months' or days' residence in a religious family, have serious thoughts awakened which shall issue in their eternal salvation. Many instances of this kind have occurred.

Beyond the family circle the observance of family worship is productive of the greatest benefits. The instructions of the family circle, even when the pulpit is silent and unfaithful, will serve to perpetuate the truth, and preserve from error. Congregational singing will be best sustained by those whose dwellings habitually echo the song of praise. Social prayer-meetings will find their best conductors from among those who have been accustomed to lead the devotions of the family. So, also, from praying families the Church is likely to obtain its best members, its best Sabbath-school teachers, its best elders, its best ministers, and its best missionaries.

To the community at large, the observance of family worship is of invaluable service. A praying family is a blessing to a whole neighbourhood, to a whole nation. Our empire owes much under God to its brave warriors, its wise statesmen, its enterprising merchants, its men of learning and of science. It owes infinitely more to the piety and prayers of its God-fearing fathers