

home. ..

James Packer is correct when he informs us that “family worship was . . . vitally important [to the Puritans]. Every home should be a church, with the head of the house as its pastor. Daily and indeed twice daily, the Puritans recommended, the family .. should hear the word read, and pray to God.”

Unfortunately, this Puritan commitment to family worship slowly weakened. ..

What would these [former] men say about family worship in our homes today? I suspect that they would not be impressed. Is it any wonder that we are seeing the breakdown of the .. family in our society? Is it any wonder that so few children raised in Christian homes embrace their parents’ Christianity? Is it any wonder that when contemporary Christians hear about the concept of family devotions, they think of it as old-fashioned, puritanical, and out-of-style?

Whatever our contemporaries may think about family devotions, I believe it’s a vital practice for the health of our families, our churches, and our society. Pastor Jerry Marcellino refers to it as the “Lost Treasure” that needs to be “rediscovered.” ... Family devotions is a practice that needs to be restored in our homes.

Alexander defines family devotions as “the joint worship rendered to God by all the members of one household.” ..

To begin with, ... we find two levels of worship. On the one hand, the Bible speaks of worship as a “way of life”:

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship (Romans 12:1).

On the other hand, the Bible also speaks of worship as formal religious act:

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts.
Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth (Psalm 96:8-9).

...

This is what we have in mind when we speak of “family *devotions*.” ...Those acts of worship would usually include the reading and teaching of Scripture, the offering of prayer, and the singing of praise.

Altered from a web article by Bob Gonzales



Pastor: Wayne Robilliard Ph: 4758 8778.

Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

www.mountainsbaptist.org.au

4wayner@tpg.com.au

Central Mountains Baptist Church

12 JULY, 2009

Information for Visitors.

- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to Kindy age bracket.**

Family Devotions

I attended a Bible college along with other students, most of whom came from Christian homes. Although I never conducted an official survey, my general impression was that very few of my fellow Christian students had grown up in homes where family devotions had been regularly practiced. It was a foreign concept to most of them. I believe the general ignorance concerning family devotions demonstrates just how far Christian families have departed from their Christian heritage. There was a time ... when ... Christian families understood it to be their duty to conduct .. family devotions in the





Discipleship Series

Body Life I



(1 Corinthians 12:15) "If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?"

(1 Corinthians 12:21) "And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you.""

(Romans 12:4-6) "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. {6} Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ..."

(Romans 12:9-16) "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. {10} Be kindly affectionate to **one another** with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to **one another**;

{11} not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; {12} rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; {13} distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. {14} Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. {15} Rejoice **with** those who rejoice, and weep **with** those who weep. {16} Be of the same mind toward **one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but **associate with the humble**. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

The letters to Timothy and Titus describe a dozen responsibilities that we have to each other in the local church. Today we consider the first two:

1. Promote good _____, ... by

- ◆ Ensuring it is _____ teaching, 1 Timothy 1:3, 2 Timothy 2:14, 16

(Acts 2:42) "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

- ◆ Bible _____, 1 Timothy 4:13

(Acts 17:11) "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

- ◆ Careful _____, 2 Timothy 2:15

(2 Timothy 2:15) "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." [paraphrase]

(2 Timothy 2:15) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." [paraphrase]



- ◆ Systematic, patient building of _____, 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 2:23-26
- ◆ _____ (the Word), 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:2-4
- ◆ Preparing _____ men to teach, 2 Timothy 2:1-2

(1 John 2:19) "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."



"Peoples Temple"

2. Provoke holy _____, ..noting that

- ◆ Holiness arises out of _____, 1 Timothy 1:3, 5
- ◆ Holiness wears a badge of _____, 1 Timothy 2:8-10
(Hebrews 10:24-25) "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
- ◆ Holiness requires _____, 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 6:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:22
- ◆ Holiness should be _____, 1 Timothy 4:10-11, 2 Timothy 3:14, Titus 3:8

