

(12:7; 13:4, 18). He was obviously a man who believed and worshipped the one true God. I do not believe it would be wrong for us to assume that Abraham made sure his family was present when such worship was offered. There are two passages that seem to teach that Abraham even demanded true worship from his household. The first of these passages is found in 17:23-27. Abraham has just received a divine command to circumcise himself and his entire household.

*Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the servants who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him. ... All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him (Gen. 17:23-27).*

... let's turn to the second passage, which is located in the next chapter, 18:16-19:

*.. The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." (Gen. 18:16-19).*

God did not choose Abraham so that he alone would worship and serve the Lord. God chose Abraham so that Abraham would lead his entire household into the worship and service of the one true God. ...

**4. To the heads-of-households in Israel (Deut. 4:9-10; 6:4-9; 11:19-21; 32:46; cf. Ps. 78:1-8).** There are a number of passages in the book of Deuteronomy that give parents, especially fathers, the responsibility to teach their children the ways of God. We will confine ourselves to the primary passage in 6:4-9. Verse 4 begins with an imperative: "*Hear, O Israel.*" That's not a command to passively allow the sound waves to vibrate the ear drums. That's a command to act! Moses is calling upon the Israelites to hear and to believe and to confess the following truth: "Yahweh our God, Yahweh is one [the idea is, 'Yahweh is the only one']." "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*" (v. 5)..., ...: "*These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.*" .. *You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deut. 6:7-9).*

..., I don't think we should limit the practice commanded in this passage to one set-time of formal instruction. ..

The commandments were to be the subject of conversation both inside and outside the home, from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. In summary, the commandments were to permeate every sphere of the life of man.<sup>6</sup>

In other words, I'm not to limit the religious instruction of my children to just 30 minutes a day. There is a sense in which I am to teach them all the time. ..

(continued on bulletin insert)

**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](http://www.mountainsbaptist.org.au)

[4wayner@tpg.com.au](mailto:4wayner@tpg.com.au)

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## 26 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 (part 2)**

.. the Puritans .., did not hesitate to represent family worship as a duty warranted by Scripture. To support their position, they usually draw inferences from several Old and New Testament passages that provide warrant for something like the practice of family worship. ...

#### **1. Noah and the family altar (Genesis 8:20)**

Immediately after the animals and his family left the ark, we read in Genesis 8:20:

*Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar (Gen. 8:20).*

... Noah offered these sacrifices not merely for himself but on behalf of his entire family. In other words, as the head of his home, Noah was, as it were, something like the family priest. And so, we have here an early allusion to a special act of worship that took place within the context of a family unit.

#### **2. Job, the family priest (Job 1:4, 5)**

In this passage, we're told in more explicit terms that Job offered sacrifices on behalf of his family:

*[Job's] sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually (Job 1:4-5).*

#### **3. Abraham—"commanding his children" (Gen. 17:23-27; 18:19)**

Like Noah and Job, we find Abraham building altars and offering sacrifices unto the LORD





# Our Home

## A Nurturing Man

**(Isaiah 40:11)** "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young."

**(Psalms 23)** "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. {2} He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. {3} He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. {4} Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. {5} You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. {6}

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."



Ephesians 5:28-29 describes two aspects to being a nurturing man:

### 1. A nurturing man \_\_\_\_\_ for his wife, Ephesians 5:28-29

**(Luke 14:26)** "'If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, ... yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."

**(Psalms 128:1-3)** "Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. {2} When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. {3} Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, ..."

**(Proverbs 31:10-13)** "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. {11} The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. {12} She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. {13} She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands."



**(Proverbs 31:26-28)** "She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. {27} She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. {28} Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:"

**(Song of Songs 1:13)** "A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, That lies all night between my breasts."

**(Song of Songs 1:16)** "Behold, you are handsome, my beloved! Yes, pleasant! Also our bed is green."

**(Song of Songs 2:9-10)** "My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.. {10} My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away."

**(Song of Songs 2:16)** "My beloved is mine, and I am his. .... "

**(1 Peter 3:7)** "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, ...

### 2. A nurturing man \_\_\_\_\_ for his wife, Ephesians 5:28-29

**(1 Thessalonians 2:7)** "But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children."

**(Ephesians 5:29)** "After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church--"

**(Ephesians 5:29)** "For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church,"

**(Ephesians 5:29)** None of us hate our own bodies. We provide for them and take good care of them, just as Christ does for the church

**(1 Peter 3:7)** "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."



(continued from back page of the bulletin)

### **5. Joshua—“as for me and my house” (Josh. 24:14-15)**

Having successfully led the people of Israel into the Promised Land, Joshua gathers them together and issues the following exhortation:

*Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Josh. 24:14-15).*

...Practically speaking, what does that entail for those of us who are heads-of-households? First, it means that we require our entire household to attend the public means of grace... Second, I agree with George Whitefield who preached a sermon on this text entitled, “The Great Duty of Family Religion.” In that sermon, Whitefield argues that heads-of-households are responsible to lead their family in worship.<sup>7</sup> And since Whitefield used to read Matthew Henry’s commentary in preparation for preaching, it’s probably safe to assume that Mr. Henry influenced or confirmed his interpretation. Here’s what Matthew Henry has to say about this passage:

Joshua was a ruler, a judge in Israel, yet he did not make his necessary application to public affairs an excuse for the neglect of family religion. Those that have the charge of many families, as magistrates and ministers, must take special care of their own.<sup>8</sup>

...

Parents, wouldn’t you like your child to grow up like Matthew Henry? .... Determine that as for you and your house, you shall worship the Lord. ...

### **6. David and Solomon—“My son, listen to your father and mother” (2 Sam 6:20; Prov 4:1-5)**

Let’s begin by turning to 2 Samuel 6:20. David and the Israelites have successfully relocated the Ark of the Covenant from Obed-edom’s house to Jerusalem. This has been a time of great celebration and rejoicing. We read in verses 14 and 15:

*And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.*

.... David playing a role in leading God’s people in corporate worship.

With that in mind, look with me at the first phrase in verse 20: “But when David returned to bless his household....” The incident goes on to tell us of a conflict in David’s home. Yet, for our purposes, I want you to note that King David not only led corporate worship. David also led family worship. It was no mere “God bless you.” Rather, it was David playing the role of a priest in his home. We’re not told exactly how David led his household in worship. But if you’ll turn with me to Proverbs 4, we see something of what may have been involved in David’s family worship.

*Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, for I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction. When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, then he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live; acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.*

As you know, these are the words of King Solomon, one of David’s son. They give us insight into the practice of David and Solomon. ...

### **7. Fathers, nourish your children with the Lord’s discipline and admonition (Eph. 6:4)**

Directing an exhortation to Christian fathers, the apostle Paul writes,

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up [literally, ‘nourish them’] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).*

... More broadly, this is a command directed to fathers to “shepherd” our children, as a pastor would shepherd the sheep. In fact, the Greek word translated “bring up” is used in the LXX to refer to a shepherd caring for his sheep (2 Sam. 12:3; Psa. 23:2). Thus, the apostle Paul is commanding fathers shepherd their children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord.” ... teaching and preaching God’s Word to our children. In fact, the word translated “discipline” is the same word Paul uses in 2 Timothy 3:16 where he tells young Timothy, “All Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and **instruction** [*paideia*] in righteousness.”

Thus, just as a pastor is to use the word of God to nourish and train God’s people, so too fathers are to use the Scripture to nourish and train their children. One of the best ways to teach and preach the Scriptures to our children is by establishing set-times of regular family worship. ....

Edited from a Web article by Bob Gonzales.