



Most endorsements are written by experts, but mine is written out of eager expectation. It is a great privilege to lead our families in worship, but most of us struggle for one reason or another. What we need is precisely what Pastor Jason Helopoulos has provided: a wise, realistic, gospel-motivated (rather than guilt-driven) guide that all of us can use and put into practice. I am happy to commend it, and I am eager to see how the Lord will use it for his glory and the strengthening of families!

Justin Taylor

blogger, "Between Two Worlds"; Managing Editor, *The ESV Study Bible*, Chicago, Illinois



As the father of five busy children, I would rarely have time to discuss God's Word and pray with them if not for structured family worship. What a great loss Christian families have suffered by the neglect of this vital means of grace! Jason Helopoulos' book may lead to a greatly needed revival of family worship. Churches where this excellent book is known and read can only see a growth in the faith of children and parents alike. If your family is not worshipping together in the home, this may be the most important book you read this year.

Richard D. Phillips

Senior Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, South Carolina

"Family worship." We all know how hard this is. Maybe you are eager to start family devotions but aren't sure where to begin. Maybe you are stuck in a rut of fidgety yawn-fests. Maybe you've lurched between well-meaning neglect and guilt-ridden duty. In *A Neglected Grace*, Jason lays out a biblical defense of family worship *and* provides plenty of wise and practical help for how to get started. All with the brevity that parents of young children will appreciate. If you're looking to begin family devotions for the first time, or revive a lost family tradition, let Jason lead you into grace of family worship.

C.J. Mahaney

Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky



Aside from the weekly cadence of sabbath observance, there is nothing more central to the cultivation of Christian piety than the regular practice of family worship—regrettably, there is nothing more neglected either. In this highly instructive and extremely practical guide to family worship, Jason Helopoulos highlights the lifelong (and eternal) benefits of an almost forgotten spiritual discipline. Do yourself and your family a big spiritual favor and read, mark, learn and apply the contents of this splendid little book! By God’s grace, it could have an impact for generations to come.

Jon D. Payne

Visiting Lecturer of Practical Theology, RTS Atlanta, Georgia
Senior Minister, Christ Church Presbyterian, Charleston, South Carolina



The Puritans believed that one of the greatest reasons why ungodliness had flooded their nation was the neglect of family worship. Jason Helopoulos’ truly helpful book on this crucial subject is short, motivating, realistic, and practical. If you are already doing family worship, this book will encourage and sharpen you. If you are not, then this book could very well change your family forever. Buy it, read it, share it with your friends, discuss it in your small group—and most of all, put it into practice!

Joel R. Beeke,

President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

If you are looking for a good, helpful introduction to family worship, one that provides both a biblical basis for family worship as well as guidance on how to practice it in real life, then look no further. It is my hope that Jason Helopoulos’ book contributes to the widespread recovery of the “neglected grace” of family worship.

Don Whitney

Associate Professor of Biblical Spirituality Senior Associate Dean for the School of Theology
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky



Just what I needed! An encouraging refresher on family worship that reminded me of the “Why?” and gave me lots of new ideas about “How?” Also a powerful motivation and perfect guide for parents just starting this much-blessed practice, with lots of practical and realistic tips.

David P. Murray

Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Family worship is a true blessing! This excellent book will open your eyes to see why it is a missing DNA of Christian lifestyle. It gives you a complete picture of why, what, who, where, when and how to reinstall this missing DNA. More than that, this book helps you to remove all the obstacles away from having a good family worship and gives you lively personal stories. I have started a family worship with my wife and two sons after reading this inspiring book.

Silas Ng

Missionary Bishop of Canada
Anglican Mission in the Americas, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada

The revival of family worship is one of the most encouraging developments in modern Christianity. However, the practice is still rare. Most Christian homes are still void of anything resembling the family altar that once represented the norm among Christ’s followers. Few in our day have ever seen or experienced family worship. Rich in both theological reflection and practical application, *A Neglected Grace*, is a welcome and much-needed tool for those keen on reviving these practices in their own homes, or being an encouragement to others. Even more encouraging than the content of this book is the prospect that its readers will embrace and employ these timeless practices and honor God in their homes.

Voddie Baucham, Jr.

Pastor of Preaching, Grace Family Baptist Church, Author of *Family Driven Faith*, and
Family Shepherds, Spring, Texas





A
NEGLECTED
GRACE



*Family Worship
in the Christian Home*

JASON HELOPOULOS

CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



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Foreword



Right near the top of the list of things I really want to do, but struggle to do well, would be family worship. I know it's important, but seem to fail as much as I succeed. Family worship will burst on the scene for five days, only to disappear for four. The kids will enthusiastically participate one night and barely sit still the next. Family worship is something my wife and I have done with our kids for years and something we've struggled with just as long. It's hard to be consistent, hard to be creative, hard to make the time, hard to make the kids pay attention, hard to push through seeming tedium to the point of supernatural triumph.

Which is why I love this book.

I love the title: *A Neglected Grace*. Instead of hammering us with the heavy hand of ought, Jason holds out family worship as an example of divine kindness. Yes, we need motivation for the discipline of family worship, but the best, longest-lasting motivation comes not by feeling terrible for what we could be





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doing better, but by believing what good God has in store for us. The message of the book isn't "Pray with your family or else!" but "Think of how sweet this will be".

I love the practicality of this book. Jason has reached back into the history of the church without sacrificing relevance for our own day. His reflections are timeless, and his counsel is timely. He doesn't just tell us what to do. He shows us how to do it. Jason gives us questions to ask, elements to try, books to read, hymnals to consult, and real life stories from which to learn. I expect everyone who reads this book will walk away with two great conclusions: "I want to grow in family worship" and "I have some great next steps to take in that direction".



Finally, and on a subject like this, maybe most importantly: I love the good friend of mine who wrote this book. In a day where we have hundreds of "friends" on Facebook and introduce every acquaintance as "My good friend so and so", I count it a privilege to have Jason as a real, flesh and blood, stick by you no matter what, friend. He's a good pastor, a good husband and a good father. He'd be the first to tell you he's not perfect—not with family worship or anything else. But that doesn't mean he's not an example to follow. This is one pastor who practices what he preaches. I know firsthand that he writes as one who takes seriously all the challenges and all the opportunities fleshed out in this excellent book. The "neglected grace" of family worship is not neglected in his home.

And that's a man I can respect, with a book I need.

Kevin DeYoung

March 2013



Introduction

It's gone! Or, at the very least, it is rarely seen or heard. If it were an animal, it would be on the endangered species list. We have not only stopped *doing* it, but we have stopped *talking* about it. We hear few sermons or pastoral exhortations that attend to it. We find few fathers and mothers encouraging one another to pursue it. Christian publications seem to have forgotten about it altogether. And yet, in the history of the church, it has been one of the Christian family's strongest characteristics: That is why this book includes a number of quotes from Christians of previous centuries.

What is it that was part of the DNA of the Christian family in previous centuries, but seems to have all but vanished in this past century? Family worship. This glorious expression of our Christian faith used to mark Christian homes, but over the past one hundred years, the evangelical church seems to have forgotten about it. It is time for us to explore and promote family worship in the church again. We need to hear about the need for



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family worship in our homes. Pastors need to stress the importance of it. And laypeople need to be talking about it. But even more importantly, we need to begin to practice it, so that this silent void which has crept into our Christian homes will disappear. My hope is that our Christian homes will once again be filled with fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children, sisters, and brothers that are worshiping to the glory of God.

When I think of Christian homes, I always think of the city of Kidderminster, England, in the seventeenth century. Kidderminster was a small city which contained around 800 homes and 2,000 people. It was to this city that Richard Baxter was called as a minister. Baxter's ministry in this city had a great effect.¹ Baxter reports that, when he arrived in Kidderminster, the town was made up of an "ignorant, rude, and reveling people"² However, the Lord blessed the preaching of His Word in this town, and many came to saving faith.

One of the great transformations that occurred in the city after this awakening was the blossoming of family worship. Baxter says of this change that, "On the Lord's days...you might hear a hundred families singing psalms and repeating sermons as you passed through the streets...when I came thither first there was about one family in a street that worshiped God and called on his name, and when I came away there were some streets where there was not past one family in the side of a street

1 Richard Baxter was one of the great Puritan preachers of the seventeenth century. He was one of the best writers and thinkers in Puritan circles on practical Christian living. However, not everything of Baxter's ministry or pen is to be commended.

2 Quoted in J.I. Packer's "Introduction" to *The Reformed Pastor* by Richard Baxter (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust. Reprinted in 1999.), p. 11.



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that did not so....”³ Homes that were once places of darkness and unbelief were transformed into places of light and worship. If one walked the streets of Kidderminster on a Lord’s Day evening, after the families had attended the morning worship services at church, the sound of children and parents worshipping together would flow from the open windows into the night sky. Worshipping in their homes was one of the natural responses of these individuals and their families upon their conversion. They desired to gather with their families and worship the Lord who saved them. Could anything be more appropriate and right?

This is a small and simple book. And I have a small and simple prayer to accompany it. It is my hope that the Lord will use this book to encourage you and your family to introduce family worship in your home or to persevere in it. There is no better time than now for this time-tested and beneficial aspect of the Christian life to be revived.

However, my hopes for a revival of family worship are not meant to place burdensome expectations on Christian homes. I recently received a note from a mother who said, “You know, there are times when many Christian parents feel a sense of condemnation for not having regular (worship) with their kids. I know I have felt that way at times, which was why I would try to do something along those lines and yet I did not succeed.” We all know well that sense of struggle and, at times, failure, in leading our homes in worship. At the outset, I want to make it clear that this book is not intended to heap guilt upon the shoulders of husbands, mothers, or parents who have struggled to lead their homes in family worship. My great challenge in writing this book was to do so in a way that would show the benefits of family worship—how important

3 Ibid, p. 12.



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and beneficial it is for the Christian family—and yet would do so in a way that would not lead struggling husbands, fathers, and mothers to be weighed down by guilt. If this book increases guilt in the reader, then my prayer is that it quickly goes out of print. Instead, I hope that this book will be an encouragement to the reader to have a true resolve to engage in family worship, but only by, in, through, and because of the grace of God. As we approach the subject of family worship it is helpful to be reminded that it is nothing more than our response in the home to God’s magnificent and infinite grace. And it is by that grace that we gather together with our family members to delight in His excellent goodness and eternal glory. Family worship is not something we have to do. Our right standing before God is not impacted by whether we lead our families in worship or not. Christ has already accomplished all for our salvation. Rather, family worship, like other spiritual disciplines, becomes something we *want* to do. As the individual Christian, changed by God’s grace, naturally begins to read the Bible, sing, and pray, so the Christian family impacted by the grace of God will want to gather together to read the Bible, sing, and pray. As all the Christian life is lived in grace, so we enjoy and pursue family worship by that same grace.

I am not an expert in family worship. My wife and kids can testify to that. My family and I continue to learn how to do family worship better, more faithfully, more consistently, and with more joy. I confess that it is not always easy, and at times it even seems laborious. But I have seen up-close the fruit that accrues in a family when they worship regularly together in their home. Family worship has benefits that are eternal; and that is worthy of our pursuit. Consider this book an encouragement to that end.



Introduction

The following chapters present a sound theological and biblical basis for family worship, supplemented with very practical everyday advice for implementing this practice in our homes. Much of this material has been developed as a result of my own struggles and successes at home as well as those of the families I have had the privilege to minister with and to. Chapter one takes a look at the purpose for which we were created and recreated in Christ Jesus. We are worshipers, and this is the dominant factor for all of our life. Chapter two wrestles with our particular responsibility to engage in family worship. Chapter three rounds out the opening chapters with some additional practical reasons to begin this beneficial discipline.

Some of you may already be convinced of the call to worship with your family and the benefits which flow from it. However, you may be struggling to implement this important activity on a regular basis. If that is the case, then you may want to skip the first few chapters and begin in chapter four, where this book begins to detail the practicalities of family worship, its means, manner (Ch. 5), and what family worship is not (Ch. 6). Chapters seven through nine provide some added helps for implementing family worship and attempts to answer common objections to our struggles with beginning it. In chapter ten, the reader will find helpful testimonials from families honestly engaging and struggling to practice family worship in the home.

Dear Christian, as you read this book, be reminded that Christ is your joy and salvation. He delights in you, and family worship is yet another daily opportunity for us to delight in Him with those we most love in this life. May we be the generation that reinvigorates this storied and beneficial characteristic of the Christian life for the good of ourselves, our families, and the generations to come.



CHAPTER 1

Worshippers: Who We Are Worship: What We Do

Everyone lives for something. That is reality. We may not be aware of what we are living for, but we are living for something. And what we live for naturally shapes our daily lives. Some people live to accrue a large savings account. Therefore, they labor every day to store up money. Some people's *raison d'être* is their family. Everything begins to circulate around raising their children, so soccer games, ballet lessons, and Boy Scout meetings dictate each week. Some people live for relaxation and self-pleasure. They tend to live life by the motto, "Just get through today." They can't wait to get home and slump down in front of the television. Recently, I was in a video game store buying a present for someone and overheard an employee of the store comment that he couldn't wait to get home to play a particular video game. He then made the bold declaration, "I believe I was put on earth to play this game." Everyone lives for something. And this something shapes our daily activities. However, not all reasons for living are equal.



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I, for one, am thankful that we weren't created just to play video games. Don't get me wrong—I enjoy a good video game, but there has to be something more to life than squashing mushrooms and freeing Princess Toadstool. If we weren't created for video games, then what were we created for? There is nothing more crucial for our understanding of life than the fact that we were created by God to worship Him. This is at the very heart of what it means to be human. People may live life as if their reason for existing were something else, but all of us were created to worship God. Adam was created from the dust of the ground to be a worshiper. Eve was created from his side to be a worshiper. This is who man is and this is what man was created for. Yet, this is not always how we live our lives or what we understand to be our ultimate purpose. Why is that? Because sin has had its effects. In Adam's choice to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, man chose to ignore and rebel against God's calling (Genesis 3). Instead of worshiping God by resting in dependence upon Him and obeying His command, man chose to seek independence from God and thwart His rule.

Adam went from being a worshiper who enjoyed the fellowship of God to a rebel raising his fist in defiance of God. In fact, our first parents, Adam and Eve, did not just choose to forsake worshiping God; they chose to worship something altogether different: self. The great sin of the Garden of Eden is fundamentally an exchange in the object of worship. And all mankind fell with them in that first sin. All of human history could be described as a story about worship. Will man worship God as he was created to do? Will he be a worshiper in spirit and truth (John 4)? Or will man worship the creation and self rather than the Creator (Rom. 1)? This is the great drama of human history.



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What a fateful decision Adam and Eve made on that day. And yet, our God was not content to allow all of His creation to be silent in praise. Therefore, God chose to redeem a people for Himself that we might worship Him forever. God Himself, in the person of the Son, became flesh, lived, suffered, and died that we might be set free from the guilt, penalty, and power of sin. Christians are those whom He has saved “to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:12). This is the reason we were created and the reason we were recreated! This is our reason for being. This is our highest calling and our eternal purpose: to worship Him. But for the Christian, it is even more than our highest calling and eternal purpose: it is our heart’s desire. We have a redeeming God, who has poured out His love upon us. For God has shown His “love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). Worship is not something we *have* to do, it is something we *want* to do. If we understand what He has done for us, we cannot help but love and worship Him. It is a thankful and grace-changed heart that seeks God in worship.

WORSHIP IN ALL OF LIFE

As we think about worshipping God, it is true that we are to “worship Him in all of life.” This is made clear in passages such as Romans 12:1, in which we are told “to present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice,” and 1 Corinthians 10:31, where the Apostle Paul tells us, “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” As Christians, our lives are to be a continual act of worship. However, in recognizing this, we must be careful that we do not negate or diminish the importance of specific times of worship. In the history of the church and the history of God’s people in Scripture, there have always been three clearly defined spheres of worship: secret



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worship, corporate worship, and family worship.¹ We will briefly review these types of worship below before focusing more fully on family worship.

First Sphere—Secret Worship



Secret worship is the first sphere of worship in the Christian's life. Secret worship is that individual, private worship that we do in our closets and behind closed doors. In recent years, the importance of secret worship has been highlighted in the Western evangelical church with an emphasis upon "daily quiet times." However, the idea of secret worship is not something new. We see this type of worship emphasized in the history of God's people throughout the Scriptures. We witness it in God's commission of Joshua after the death of Moses and His exhortation to meditate upon the Law day and night (Josh. 1:8). It is evidenced in Daniel's willingness to face a possible death sentence to maintain a daily time of worship with the Lord (Dan. 6). We observe it frequently in the Psalms as they speak of worshiping God as part of our daily living, even during the watches of the night upon our bed (Ps. 63:6; 77:6; 119:148).

In the New Testament, we encounter a man named Cornelius. He is described as "a God-fearing man", who is marked by a spirit of prayer (Acts 10:1-8). It is during one of Cornelius' times of prayer, alone before the face of the Lord that the Lord responds with His grace. Then we encounter Peter, who has himself escaped to the roof of a house to spend time alone with the Lord

¹ It could be argued that there is a fourth sphere of worship in the Scriptures: national worship. The nation of Israel is often called together for worship in the Old Testament. However, for the purposes of this book and due to the passing of God's identification with a particular nation state, I do not address this sphere of worship here (or in this book).



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(Acts 10:9). And as Peter seeks the Lord in prayer he is directed to go and minister to Cornelius, “this God-fearing man”.

But maybe no greater argument needs to be made for the importance the Scriptures place upon secret worship than the very actions and words of our Savior. Jesus, the Son of God, who has constant communion with the Father, set-aside time for secret worship. As we are told in the Gospel of Mark, “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed” (Mark 1:35). If the Lord Jesus Christ deemed it important to spend time in secret worship, then we can be confident that it is an essential part of our life of worship as well! And Jesus makes this clear in the Sermon on the Mount. He assumes that followers of God will seek Him in prayer: “But *when* you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret” (Matt. 6:6, emphasis mine).

All of these passages and more show us that secret worship is the responsibility of the Christian. But Christians through the centuries have not just seen secret worship as their duty, but as their joy. Robert Murray M’Cheyne, a famous Scottish preacher from the nineteenth century, said this well in one of his sermons: “A believer longs after God—to come into His presence—to feel His love—to feel near to Him in secret—to feel in the crowd that he is nearer than all the creatures. Ah! dear brethren, have you ever tasted this blessedness? There is greater rest and solace to be found in the presence of God for one hour, than in an eternity of the presence of man.”² The promise of secret

2 Robert Murray M’Cheyne, “The Good Way of Coming Before the Lord,” (Sermon XIV). As printed in Andrew A. Bonar, *Memoir and Remains of the Rev. Robert Murray M’Cheyne* (Edinburgh: William Oliphant and Co.), p. 382.



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worship, as in all of worship, is that we will be in the presence of our glorious God. There is no greater joy or blessing than that.

Second Sphere—Corporate Worship

Corporate worship is the second key sphere of worship in the Christian's life. If secret worship is a time in which we close the door in private and escape for a moment with God in the quietness of solitude, then corporate worship is at the other end of the continuum. This is the public and communal sphere of worship.

Not long ago, this book could have been written and only a brief sentence about the importance of corporate worship would have needed to be made. However, in the past few years the unthinkable has occurred: some Christians are actually arguing that the individual Christian has no need for corporate worship. How misguided and harmful this is!

There is a corporate nature to our faith. We are called the "flock" of Christ (Luke 12:32; John 10:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2-3), the "bride" of Christ (Eph. 5; Rev. 19:7; Rev. 21:2, 9), and are told that we are being built into a "holy temple" in the Lord (Eph. 2:21). These are all corporate expressions. The greatest metaphor for the church in the New Testament is the language of the "body." We are the body of Christ. Yes, this speaks of our dependence upon the head, Christ Jesus, but it also proclaims our utter dependence upon one another. This is the very argument found in 1 Corinthians 12: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (v. 12). We belong to one another and need one another. The writer of Hebrews reminds us to not forsake meeting together for this very reason (Heb. 10:25).



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If we turn to Scripture, we see that whether they are at the foot of Mount Sinai, the temple, the synagogue, or the houses in Acts, God's people worship when they meet together. Our common bond is our union in Christ our Savior. Therefore, it is natural that when we gather together, we offer worship to our living God. Our lives are lived from Lord's Day to Lord's Day, as each week we long to "journey to the house of the Lord" to meet with our God and His people. Charles Spurgeon made these comments based upon Psalm 42:

Debarred from *public* (emphasis mine) worship, David was heartsick. Ease he did not seek, honour he did not covet, but the enjoyment of communion with God was an urgent need of his soul; he viewed it not merely as the sweetest of all luxuries, but as an absolute necessity, like water to a stag. Like the parched traveller in the wilderness, whose skin bottle is empty, and who finds the wells dry, he must drink or die—he must have his God or faint. His *soul*, his very self, his deepest life, was insatiable for a sense of the divine presence. As the heart brays so his soul prays. Give him his God and he is as content as the poor deer which at length slakes its thirst and is perfectly happy; but deny him his Lord, and his heart heaves, his bosom palpitates, his whole frame is convulsed, like one who gasps for breath, or pants with long running.³

Third Sphere—Family Worship

The third sphere of worship is family worship, and this is the area that we will focus on in this book. Most evangelical Christians are aware of the importance of secret and corporate worship, but few have even heard of family worship. This sphere has fallen

3 Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, Volume 1: Psalms 1-57 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1876), pp. 270-71.



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on hard times! The next chapter will deal with the scriptural basis for family worship, but let us at this point at least make it clear that family worship is important for the Christian life. It should be something that the Christian family seeks to practice for the benefit of all in the home.

Family worship is that sphere of worship which incorporates those living under the same roof in a time of worship together. This may include a single mother with her children, three generations of a family, the immediate family and Uncle Bob, who is living in the spare room, or the traditional mom, dad, and 2.5 kids. Regardless of who makes up our family, it should be our desire and practice to gather together regularly for worship.

A Christian home is more than two or three Christians living in the same house. A few Christians living under the same roof does not make a place a Christian home any more than two or three bankers living in a house makes it a bank. A Christian home will seek to be centered upon Christ, and if it is centered upon Christ, then it will be filled with worship. As a Christian's life should be marked by setting time apart for secret worship, and just as our gathering together as the Christian community should be centered upon corporate worship, so should the home of a Christian family be marked by family worship. As Richard Baxter, that famous pastor of Kidderminster, said, "...prayer and praise are so necessary parts of God's service, that no family or person can be said in general to be devoted to serve God, that are not devoted to them."⁴

Worship is at the very center and core of what it means for us

4 Richard Baxter, *The Practical Works of Richard Baxter*, Volume 1 (Soli Deo Gloria Publications; Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2008), p. 419.



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to be a Christian family. As Christian families, we want to see our families as worshipping families.

THREE SPHERES IN ONE LIFE

It is an over-used illustration—but I *am* a pastor, and few pastors have rejected an illustration because it's over-used—the illustration of the three-legged stool. If one leg is severed, then the stool does not stand. It may be propped up for a time, but it is wobbly and dangerous. The stool will eventually fall. It cannot bear up with only two legs. Similarly, the Christian life, as lived in worship, must function in all three of these spheres. A Christian will find it most beneficial to practice secret worship, corporate worship, *and* family worship. They are all important for our life in Christ. They each bear a necessary weight, and they all inform one another. When my secret worship is lacking or even non-existent, then my worship in the corporate community and family will be affected. When my attendance at corporate worship is sparse, then my secret worship and family worship will suffer as well. These three spheres of worship are related, informed, and encouraged by one another, because in each I am meeting with the Lord and benefiting from His grace. As I grow in my enjoyment of the Lord in my closet, so my enjoyment of Him in corporate worship will increase. As I hear the preached Word of God in corporate worship, this informs and stimulates my heart and mind in leading my own family in worship. As I worship God with my family, my affection and love for the Lord increases, which encourages my secret and corporate worship. They all inform one another. If I am starving in one area, then as I function in the other spheres I will find that I am malnourished there as well.

Each of these spheres of worship was appointed by God for



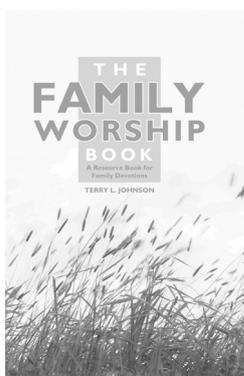
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our good. They exist and function as a means by which He may pour out His ready grace upon us. It is an incredible gift. In the following chapters, we will consider why and how family worship can flourish in our lives; and as we grow in God's grace in this area, our worship in other areas will flourish as well. And in this way, it is grace upon grace.



The Family Worship Book
A Resource Book for Family Devotions

TERRY L. JOHNSON



ISBN 978-1-85792-401-5

Do you struggle to provide enjoyable, meaningful and spiritual times of family devotions? Do you avoid the whole subject but have the nagging thought that you should be doing something?

Let Terry & *Family Worship* equip you for leading your family in worship with the help of some key questions: What is family worship? What have other people done? Why Should I do it? How can

I start? A Valuable resource which you will not exhaust in years.

Terry Johnson provides a brief but compelling argument for the importance of family worship, but then takes those he has convinced in theory to the next step: actually putting it into practice! In a day and age when family worship is a rarity, and in which parents who are called to lead in it are not likely to have had personal experience of it in their own upbringing, Johnson's book will prove to be an invaluable aid. May the Lord use this book to bring about a revival of family worship in our land.

Ligon Duncan

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Christian Focus Publications

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