



BEULAH HOTEL

1914 - JULY 3-12 - 1914

Have you reserved these dates for Beulah Camp Meeting?

FAMILY RELIGION.

The subject of Family Religion is a vital one and much neglected. As the family is the foundation stone of society, the church and of nations, it is of supreme importance. As true religion is the essential family as well as individual quality, the subject of Family Religion cannot well be over-emphasized.

In patriarchal times the family was next to the individual, the religious unit. The father was the prophet, priest and king. Every member of his family was also a member of parish and kingdom. He it was who declared God's will, who stood before the mercy seat in intercession and who swayed the sceptre. Although times and orders have changed since then, and while larger religious units have been organized, such as the church, the family religious unit should never be abrogated. The family institution is the first and a divine one and anything which militates against it militates against the God who instituted it.

SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY.

A great change is noticeable in the last few decades in relation to family government and religion, and it would appear to some that family religious responsibility has almost ceased. Parents seem to think that all the religious training their children need is what may be obtained in the Sunday school, in the brief space of an hour on Sunday. When they have been sent to Sunday school on Sunday too many parents feel that they have fulfilled their religious duty to their children.

Again, when we take into account the loose, indefinite, heartless teaching children receive in many Sunday Schools, having received no religious training at home, is there any wonder the oncoming generation of boys and girls is an irreverent, irreligious one? Pessimistic as it might seem, there are evidences that the larger part of American youth is morally degraded and almost hopelessly beyond redemption. This of course is not because of anything on the part of God, but due to the fact that religion is not thought of in the greater number of homes, and even in homes where parents are nominally Christian, family religion is practically unknown. Parents, it is not enough that you do

not do anything to wilfully turn your children away from God, but you must do something definitely to save them for Christ and the church.

A lecturer recently said that child training should be begun two hundred years before the child was born. While this may seem an exaggerated statement, there are Bible evidences that a man's conduct and attitude toward God will set in motion waves of influence which will enlarge until at least the fourth generation is reached. God's calling and blessing to Abraham was hinged upon the fact that God knew that Abraham would command his family aright.

GETTING CHILDREN SAVED.

If parents only knew it, there are high points of probability in the lives of boys and girls which, if not taken advantage of at the proper time, will never return. Statistics prove that girls reach one of these high points of probability for getting saved at the age of ten or eleven years and boys at about twelve or thirteen. After this for a short time the probability lessens a little but returns somewhat stronger in the lives of girls at from fourteen to fifteen and in boys from fifteen to sixteen. These periods also mark physical changes going on in them. When these high points of probability are once passed without having been made use of, the probabilities begin to lessen, growing smaller and smaller, that they will be saved. Oh, parents, take this warning and see to it that your boys and girls are saved before they come to maturity.

THE FAMILY ALTAR.

One of the saddest things conceivable is to see children born into the world and grow up to manhood and womanhood in prayerless, Christless homes. This old sinful world is a dark place out into which to send boys and girls without following them with a father and mother's prayers, and the sacred, hallowed influence of a Christian home and family altar.

That child who does not have thrown around him the sacred hallowed influences of family religion and family prayer, and goes out from the parental roof without these memories and influences following him, is seriously handicapped in a spiritual sense. It will be an awful

thing to have children stand in the judgment and testify that they have never heard their parents pray. If you have never started family prayers, you had better begin them now.

Perhaps most readers will not plead guilty to no family prayers, but no doubt some are guilty. There is, however, another charge of which many are guilty—that of going through family devotions hurriedly, formally and haphazardly. This is almost as sinful as not having any family devotions, because family devotion has little attraction, sweetness or sacredness when practised in this way, and results are far from satisfactory.

Sometimes parents will allow children to lie in bed, to be at the barn or in other parts of the house while family prayers are conducted. This is an awful mistake. Every member of the family old enough to be up should be present, and everything should be dropped and every other interest should be suspended while devotion is being conducted. Children should not be allowed to play with toys at any time during worship, nor to remain sitting while the parents kneel. They should participate in the reading, singing and praying. Scripture reading or a gospel song or both are splendid exercises in connection with prayer.

We should never let rising late or the pressure of business or work rob us of these priceless devotions, upon which hinges not only our own destinies, but those of our families. Praying is talking to God. Should someone rap at your door while you are praying, let him wait while you talk to the King of Kings. Should your telephone ring, pay no attention until you are through. Our souls need nourishment and strength as truly as our bodies, and we could much better afford to go without our morning meal than our morning devotions. A family religious service sacredly kept and properly conducted will send the father to his toils with a stronger arm and happier heart, and the mother to the kitchen with a new stock of patience and joy, and the sons and daughters will receive now inspiration for holy living. It will determine much in the interest of our spiritual success.

We need revivals in our churches, but more than that, we need revivals in our homes. Many a boy and girl is lost in this cold world of sin because of a lack of family religion, manifested in no family devotions, or devotions conducted carelessly and haphazardly. God's promise is that if a child be trained in the way it should go he will not depart from it even when he is old. God is a covenant-keeping God, and when ever we fail to have our children saved the fault is ours not His. This is not written to wound any parent's heart, but to stir up the professed people to activity. What shall we do about it? May the Lord send us a genuine revival of family religion, and then our children will be saved for Christ and the church.—*Gospel Banner*.

Someone has recently said: "The Church is looking for better methods, trying better organization; God is looking for better men." The same writer says: "What the church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer."—*Christian Witness*.

"It is not necessary to be clever, but it is necessary to be clean."