

## **IT TAKES TRAINING IN THE HOME (Psalm 78:1-8)s**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. A recent study indicates that churches of Christ have the highest percentage of members who attend worship of any religious group.**
- 2. We have emphasized Hebrews 10:25 from pulpit and classroom.**
- 3. Why have we not also taught the importance of daily worship at home?**
- 4. We are losing many of our children to the world even after taking them to church every time the doors are open.**
  - a. Some will reject the Lord and His church since they have free will.**
  - b. Four hours a week will not overcome the influence of the world.**

### **Discussion:**

- I. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS TO PASS THE FAITH ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION.**
  - A. Timothy was a third generation believer.**
    - 1. His father was an unbeliever (Acts 16:1).**
    - 2. His mother and grandmother trained him (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14,15).**
  - B. Eli was a righteous man but his sons were wicked (1 Sam. 1:12-2:36).**
    - 1. They took the Lord's portion of the sacrifices.**
    - 2. They "lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle."**
    - 3. Eli honored his sons more than he honored God.**
    - 4. Because of their sins, they were both killed in one day.**
  - C. Fathers must make GOD and His will known to their children:**

**"For He (GOD) established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may also arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in GOD, and not forget the works of GOD, but keep His commandments" (Psa. 78:5-7).**

**“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).**

**D. Each generation has a limited time to indoctrinate the next one.**

## **II. FAMILY WORSHIP IN THE HOME IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR TASK.**

**A. In the past, Christians used to have daily devotionals at home.**

- 1. Thanks was always given before each meal (Mt. 14:19; 15:36).**
- 2. Family worship began or ended the day.**
- 3. Alexander Campbell required each family member to memorize a passage of Scripture each day.**

**B. Our busy modern life crowds out daily worship and study.**

- 1. It takes less time to go places, but we have more places to go.**
- 2. We have more gadgets to do our work, but more work to do.**
- 3. In 1965, one fourth of American families still had daily prayer.**
- 4. Computers, TV, and other gadgets consume our time today.**
- 5. A newspaper in Detroit offered \$500 each to 125 families if they would give up television for one month.**
  - a. Only 27 agreed to do it.**
  - b. They became closer, more patient and more creative.**
  - c. However, they went back to their habit of watching TV forty plus hours per week.**

**C. Fathers are failing their families.**

- 1. Fathers must take their responsibility as the spiritual head of the home (Eph. 6:4).**
- 2. We must learn to set our priorities.**
  - a. We can be involved in too many outside activities.**
  - b. We work to give our children material things, but have no time to give them what they most need.**

## **III. THE HOME WAS CREATED TO BE AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**

**A. Parents who homeschool often emphasize spiritual training.**

- 1. They have the advantage of a full time parent in the home.**
- 2. They teach Bible along with other subjects.**

**B. David Pharr makes some excellent suggestions for busy families:**

1. Every meal should begin with thanks to God (1 Tim. 4:4,5).
2. All the family should be together for at least one meal a day.
3. This meal should be eaten at the table, not in front of the TV.
4. A period of study and prayer should follow the meal.

**C. The Bible must be taught in the home.**

1. Follow a daily Bible reading schedule.
2. Study together what you are studying in Bible class.
3. Memorize the Scriptures (Psa. 119:11).

**D. Set aside Saturday nights to prepare for the Lord's Day.**

1. Stay at home and rest.
2. Prepare for the Bible class.
3. Get everything ready for Sunday - clothes, etc.
4. Turn off the TV and computer and go to bed early.

**E. Cultivate an atmosphere of Christlikeness in your home.**

1. Children learn to speak from hearing their parents.
2. They will also learn to be Christlike if they see it practiced all around them.

**Conclusion:**

1. An article in a church bulletin entitled "Will Your Children go to Heaven?" poses some sobering questions:
  - a. Will my son go to Heaven if I am more interested in whether he makes the football or basketball team than his spiritual growth?
  - b. Will my daughter go to Heaven if I am more concerned about her making the cheerleading squad than her spiritual development?
  - c. Will my children go to Heaven when I am more concerned about their homework than I am about their Bible class assignment?
  - d. Will my children go to Heaven if I encourage them to go to the prom and other parties knowing that alcohol and drugs will be there?
  - e. Will my children go to Heaven when I let almost any other activity keep me from going to Bible study and worship?
2. The bottom line is, "Will I go to Heaven if I fail to teach, train, and lead my children by my example?"
3. Every child deserves to grow up in a Christian home with Christian parents.

