

Hopewell ARP Church 200th Anniversary Conference, Session 3
" It's Jesus's Work: He Grows Us through His Means in Public, Family, Private Worship"

Dr. C. N. Willborn summarizes the Lord Jesus's plan for bringing us to faith and growing us in Himself. We are people of the book. Jesus grows us by His Word: read, sung, prayed, preached in public, family, and private worship.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

We're people of the book.

That's something that's a a common saying among reformed folks, we're people of the book our Scottish friends who as they were people of the book but we are it's the whole thing because listen this is the way I my friends they know no. I'm we're in New Testament church, just the New Testament I'll say well, I want you to read the book of Hebrews and tell me what the heck it's about.

If you've never read the Old Testament. That's a mysterious book you just wouldn't know what the book of Hebrews is about you wouldn't know much about the gospels because there's so many quotations from the Old Testament and you just kind of be wondering what where did Luke at that word in Matthew get that word, where'd that come from?

So we're people of the book so we're gonna read from. The book Deuteronomy 6 here. Israel, the Lord is our God the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul with all your might. By the way, I remind people when they say well, you know in the Old Testament you had the law.

But now we have the law of Jesus. And it's the love the Lord your God with all your heart mind sold and strength and love your neighbor as yourself now, say, oh. Oh you mean Deuteronomy 6. And a Leviticus. We're he gets the other part of the quote. I mean the Old Testament summarized the two tables of the law, just like Jesus did Jesus just quoting the Bible of his day the Old Testament.

And so here you see that these words which I'm 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 doorpost of your house and on your gates now let me say this we've all seen the Hasidic Jews who have the the little thing on the forehead and probably if you went to their homes the door mantles would have inscribed and that's not at all what this is about.

This is about. The totality of your life. We say something we believe the Bible is the only rule of faith and practice. That's what this passage is saying. The Bible is our guide to everything we believe and everything we do. You say what's it's not a guide to how I cut the grass.

Well, there's a sentence which it is if you apply the principles. I tried to teach a young man in Memphis who would never had a lawnmower in his hands to cut grass, oh chaos.

You know, big circles around the trees a you didn't get the grass up close to the tree, oh I said look come here see God is a God of order, so you cut your grass orderly and if you don't it'll take you a lot longer. So I mean, we apply the principles of the scripture God's God of order, he's got he's got a decent things he's a God of and on and on proper measures etc.

Now. Notice what says here now that we've got that clear this is just about your total life being being motivated and moved and and managed by God's word has a good sermon outline motivated, did you get it he's taking notes. And then notice what it says. Verse 10, then it shall come about.

A lot of people skip those the Shema the previous section that I just read. Training our children up in the way they should go. And they do it every way except the way prescribed. By God's word. And then they're amazed when the children.

Don't turn out the way. They wished they would instead of the way they prayed they would. Or they turned out the way not they didn't turn out the way. I taught them from the Bible but they just turned out. Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which he swore to your father's Abram Isaac and Jacob to give you great and splendid cities which you did not build and houses full of all good things which you did not feel and hewn systems which you did not dig vineyards and olive trees, which you did not plant and you eat and are satisfied then watch yourself that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt out of the house of slavery.

You shall fear only the Lord your God and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. Did you get that first? Here's how we live. Here's how we here's how we we shape our lives and this is how we this is how we train our children. This is how we we we set the the grace of God before our children.

And then. You can expect me. I'm a covenant faithful God. Then you can expect me to to pour my blessings out on you. And then he turns to worship immediately. It's all connected. All right with that. I am going to talk about this grace imputed grace and part it.

I'm largely talking about grace imparted this morning. When we think of grace imputed and by the way, some people mistake the two.

They mistake the two. They think just because their children get a whole bunch of head knowledge learn all the catechism questions. That everything's that's it. That's that's all there is. I pastor in a church once and I soon figured out. I would talk to the children different ages when I'd go to their homes.

You know who made you? That's right. God did. What else did God make? God made all things. Why did God make you an all things for? His my little soap you say for His own Dory. She's still pretty much says that.

For his own glory. But we forget they're also those questions about who's the only Savior of God's elect.

And and and and and how do we appropriate Christ Jesus for ourselves by knowing a bunch of stuff? No. By trusting. Him through faith alone. And when we trust the Lord Jesus Christ God, the Father makes this declaration and edges it in stone in the Book of Life mine.

And He imputes to us all of Christ's perfections. All of His perfect righteousness. I should say it that way because we don't get all of Christ's perfections. And then we'd be Christ, but we get all that. He did for us. All of His righteousness we get imputed does count it does.

But what I want to talk about? Is. What are the means of grace? That precede God making that declaration. Things happen beforehand. Things he does. But also things we do and that the Shema the Deuteronomy 6 passage is God saying you want my blessings? Then do what I tell you to do.

Now, that's not us earning or meriting anything. Did you notice if you do all these things then I? I will give you all these things. I will do all these things for you. When he talks to Abraham and Genesis 17. Have you ever counted how many times God says.

My covenant, my covenant my people mine, mine mine. I I.

He's the one that does it. So don't think okay, if we do these things then it's automatic. No because as I said with worship earlier, you do all the right things and not do them for all the right reasons and not do them in the power of the Spirit.

And you just become a moralist. Not a Christian. And with parents. That's not what you want to that's not what you want to bring up in your household. You don't want to bring up a bunch of little moralists. You want to bring up a little a bunch of little Christians a little Christ lovers in Christ followers, right?

I mean unbelievers can produce more or less. Some of the strictest goodest that's a bad. Some of the strictest goodest is a good work. Some of the strictest best people. Morally wouldn't do this wouldn't do that.

Or not Christians.

But they have this strict moral code they live by. And you can trust them with your children. You could trust them with your business. You could trust them to the nth degree. Because deep down they think being moral being good is going to count for something in the end.

Surely I'm better and surely God won't do to me what those Christians say he's going to do nearly like he's going to do to those pagans out there. So we don't want to rear a bunch of moralist. Now, I want to say there's a fine line and sometimes you have to really work on this.

I can illustrate with my Sophie again. We lived in Birmingham my wife during the summers would do these little backyard. Bible club things for the neighbors who didn't go to church. So the kiddos would come over and and at the end she gave a Bible to everybody who attended all the sessions.

And we also offered to take all of them to a Birmingham Barons baseball game. That was my part because that was really it was really for me. And in the end, we had one taker little David across the street. Oh if anyone epitomized. That foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.

David was the poster child.

So we're going to the baseball game. They're riding in the backseat of our minivan. We had one of those terribly ugly aerodynamically designed Chevrolet Lumina APBs. You remember those things with the front windshield as big as that back wall back there. I mean, you couldn't reach it to wash it.

And I hear David say in the far back. Sophie seated with him back there, they would have been. Six years old. Yeah about six. Maybe seven. I hear David say wow, you're really lucky. To wish my Sophie said David don't you know. There's no such thing as luck. God's providence is what we didn't believe all things whatsoever from the greatest to the least he governs directs in opposed by his own holy in righteous hand.

I mean, she just.

With the truth.

So we went on to the ball game we ate hot dogs like you're supposed to and cotton candy and and those part of those things. I like so much that the funnel cakes and.

We get back that night we drop David off and see him in and we go across the street and we go and I'm and so we're we have a brief of more brief family devotion time that's not because it's 11:30 or something and and she's already like this and so we have a brief one and I said so I want to talk to you about something too.

When little David said and I rehearse that I said, you know, she said well I was right wasn't I daddy. I said yes you were right, but the tone of your voice sounded mean. And not loving it didn't sound like you were trying to. Convince him of God's wonderful provinces, it sounded like you were trying to win the argument.

And I realized how easy it is for us to produce moralist. And debaters instead of lovers of truth. So what I hope by the time we finish here and just a few minutes that will have a better grip on that. I grew up in a Baptist tradition. I'm so thankful for my godly mom and dad my dad from age nine my my age nine was my pastor.

And I learned the Bible from him. I'm gonna be preaching in the morning from second Samuel nine concerning God's wonderful covenant which my dad never recognized in that passage but it was one of his favorite passages to preach because it's one of the most beautiful stories of God's grace in the whole of the Bible tomorrow.

I hope you see that. My mom there was. Nothing. That my mom couldn't do and wouldn't do for her children. We were poor as dirt. I grew up on a chicken farm in northeast. Alabama. I have histoplasmosis in this eye, which means I have a I have. Well anyway.

It's because of those doggone chickens. But we were in church every Sunday morning every Sunday night every Wednesday, we heard God's word, we were taught the Bible stories and Sunday school. And when I was nine I remember thinking on a Sunday night when my daddy preached from Jeremiah concerning the potter and the clay, I remember thinking.

I'm not commending the aisle deal okay don't take me, you know, the the walking the aisle is Charles Finney invention, but I remember thinking that night after hearing the good news of God and how God is the one that has to shape us and make us and if we don't trust Christ.

There's no hope for us. I remember thinking I cannot do anything else but trust him. I was a little Calvinist then. I didn't know it.

And so I walked the owl and prayed and trusted Christ and that's I still look back to that day it is when God saved me the great the great Potter turned the clay into something beautiful.

But I didn't have the benefit of growing up in a covenant home a consciously covenant home where the catechism was used faithfully. And where the Bible was applied. Faithfully it was read a lot. But not applied. Pointedly to my sin. And to what I had in Christ. And so one of the great privileges we have in our tradition is our catechetical catechisms.

The children's the larger the shorter. One of your Scottish forefathers. James Fisher wrote a wonderful catechism that was used throughout the United States the Eastern seaboard in those early colonial days it came over and was used in homes. It was used to catechize slaves it was used to catechize children, it was used to instruct elders.

Fisher's catechism, he was one of those marrow men. I mentioned last night and one of the seceders. And his wonderful catechism came into this into this country and I'm seeing Dave say into this church too. And it was the first copy of that. I found it was down on Jekyll Island.

I went into a little antique shop and I found an old first edition leather cover that the mice had nibbled the binding the outside binding on the edging off. I still treasure that little copy of Fisher's catechism. Let me read you a few more scripture passages here. Israel the Lord our God.

I've read that one from Deuteronomy 6. Psalm 1 blessed is the man who walks not the counsel of the wicked nor stands in the way of the sinners nor sits in the seat of the scoffers but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.

Again, Matthew 6, but when you pray you must not be like the hypocrites for they love to stand and pray but in the synagogues and at the street corners that they have been seen by others, truly. I say to you they have received their reward. That's all they haven't they get.

That's sad, isn't it? You know people like that, they're getting their reward right now. Hebrews 4. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace and to help in time of need and then Hebrews 10:23 let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who promised his faithful and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds not forsaking our own assembling together as the habit of somebody encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near and the day was drawing near and Their day.

How much closer is it now? And what greater imperative it is their own us to take advantage of all these things we saw prayer we saw the reading of Scripture the study of scripture and the public worship. We saw it in those verses I read you in the private context and the family context and in the public corporate context.

And that's how I want to talk about this. Children and grandchildren growing up in the worship of God with His people. I still look back as a child and I remember I don't just remember back to Memphis and Miss Lucy Cody and Jim and praying and all those people.

I remember the first little church that I have any memory of Green Valley Baptist Church, and I were meant I don't remember. The sweet little lady with leukemia. Miss Walker. Who would come into our Sunday school class and sit in those little bitty chairs that we sat in. And she would I saw her when they bump her leg on the table?

And it just immediately I saw her leg turned purple. And she would come in every Sunday until she died and teach us about Jesus.

Children need that. Children need to be in the worship service. It's a beautiful thing here even at this conference setting all these children. One of the things commented on most to me as the as

one of the pastors that covenant Presbyterian Church in Oak. Ridge people come in and say wow, you've got a lot of children here.

Babies crying little guys squirming. Bigger guys, sleeping sometimes. And older guys sleeping sometimes but wives are good about. You know wives have this holy nudge thing have you noticed that they just know how to do it and they can put it right between the perfect two ribs. I know because I watched the reaction pastors get to see a lot of fun stuff, don't they and and so.

But children. I remember so many things. I remember a pianist in our church there was one particular song, she could not play now that's one of the funny memories but I also have those memories. Of songs that we would sing and you could look at people and look at their faces and I would as a child and I would think.

They don't believe that but then I'd look at others and boy they believed that.

And then you get to know them and you're like, I want to be like that one that believes it because that one that doesn't kind of grumpy.

True story. All these things. It's important for our children being worshipped. Is important for our children to know that this is what the days about. One of the saddest things for me folks is that in in many presbyterian churches today. I'm not talking I want I won't go anywhere else.

I'll be if I'm since I'm going to be critical. I'm going to be critical of us. Presbyterian churches. I'm not talking about liberal ones. I'm talking about those that are like us. Who say they believe the Bible. And so the services are pretty much we read the Bible we preach the Bible we pray the Bible we sing the Bible and we go out to do the Bible.

And they don't have the Lord's day. At best they have our Lord's air our. You know, how I know that. A at the numbers of churches that haven't evening service or any kind of service after the morning service. Be when I used to be at seminary and preach and I saw this in our church in Birmingham too when I was preaching a lot of different churches.

Of go in and I would see kids going from Sunday school with their little khakis and. Button-down shirts looking really sharp. I'd see them going in the bathroom and put on their soccer uniforms or their baseball uniforms. And then they come into worship and sit with their mom and dads with their soccer uniform or baseball uniform on.

And let me ask you a question and you know what the real answer is what do you think those children were thinking about?

They were thinking about what they were about to get to do. They were about to get to go do what they this day is really about. You know on TV. I hear the commercials. Sunday was made for the NFL.

And then you got that little cultish click that says no Sunday was made for the MLS. That's Major League. Soccer. But. And then a few of the old-timers know it's made for baseball. But it's not made for any of those things. But we live like that. For some people it's made for Red Lobster.

When Dave when we lived in Memphis, I asked an owner of one of the one of the barbecue places I'll not name it.

We were talking one day. And this was before I'd fully dealt with the Sabbath issue. Although I grew up in a Baptist house, so we didn't eat out on Sunday. This was this was Lord's Day. And

then I dipped off for a while and then I got brought me back to that position only with with a with a reason for doing it.

Somehow in the conversation this owner of this very popular barbecue restaurant said. I said what's business like on Sunday? He said lunch is great. I don't open for supper. And I wouldn't open for lunch except for the church people. Because nobody else wakes up until about that time. So, I wouldn't bother.

It wouldn't pay me the overhead to keep it open for people who haven't been to church. Anything about that. Had a dear friend in Birmingham. God had used this. To correct him on this issue. He did the the pious thing. You know the Piety. I eat out on Sunday to evangelize them.

So Sunday after Sunday, he evangelized this this owner of this restaurant that he liked to go to this Italian a place. And finally, one Sunday the owner said, Reached over and pulled a chair from another table and he said Mr. Bob let me tell you. Let me tell you about my Sunday.

I arrive at five o'clock on Sunday morning. And then my my help starts coming in at six. The cooks and then the servers come in to start preparing be sure the silverware is already in the napkins are ready and everything's clean and tables are set. And then at eleven open the door for those who have nine o'clock worship services.

And then we're ready for you when you get here. If I'm not here who will have your lunch ready for you.

And he said just pierced my heart. I was under the pious guys of evangelizing this man. I was a deterrent to him being in God's house. I was an excuse for him. Not to assemble together. So he said I I got my theology straight from this unbeliever. And then I started going on Fridays and having lunch and reminding him.

We're gonna be at church on Sunday. And I'm not gonna be here to keep you from it. We don't know the end of that story. But the Lord's day not the Lord's hour having our children there and having our children focused on the day and not distracted by all the things that God gives us six days y'all.

And then we want to beg and borrow from the one. That's supposed to look like heaven.

I'm sure in this room some you grew up in. Okay just we just went to eat every Sunday and and we we did this and we did that and we went. Well I know that and I realized for some this may be hard to hear but you're not enjoying.

All that God has for you to enjoy here's another thing about the Lord's day and worship. I don't think you do this. I looked at your order of service, so I feel pretty safe about this. But there are churches even good churches even reform churches that would in many ways be lockstep with everything.

I've said last night this morning. And the children don't worship with the adults. There's a church when I lived in Memphis took it even if not just at children's church service and then by the way, we wonder we we have Kool-Aid and cookies and jingles and playtime and at a certain age we expect them just to move from that room into this room and like it.

And understand it. When we're throwing them this big old whopping. It's like you know, it's like. It's like Crenshaw. You know. Well, I'll go back older than that. Nolan Ryan, if you ask if you

ask observers, what was Nolan Ryan known for oh his basketball. Nobody could pop a fastball like Nolan Ryan.

If that's not what batters remembering for. Hitters remember him for that crazy breaking pitch that he threw. That that was 90 miles an hour and you couldn't tell the difference between that and his his playing fastball so you're standing there and you've got that long to decide is that a is data fastball coming at my head if so I'm dead or gone.

I'm out of here or is that that breaking pitch that's gonna be a strike by the time I get out of the batter's box. That's what we do try kids we throw in that curve ball and then we expect them to hit it. We expect them to knock it out the park.

It was church in Memphis that had a children's church a youth church. And they started while we were there a singles church. And across the street from them, they rented the seven-day. Adventist building. And called it the singles church. So that single people of adult age didn't have to sit with couples and feel bad because they weren't married.

Well tell you you're single young ladies and young men, you need to see Godly couples and you need to see Godly marriages worshipping. Corporately together. Corporate worship our directory for public worship. The original one is remarkable you should read it.

Chapter 21 of the Westminster confession. You should read it often it talks about not just what the elements of worship are but it talks about. Talks about the reading of scripture, but not just the reading of scripture but also the conscionable hearing of the scripture so that we might understand it talks about all those things.

Well for us to understand God's word one of the things we used to do with our children and family worship on Saturday nights was we would always read the text if I was preaching or if we were going to be I was not going to be preaching we. Would read the text that the pastor is going to preach from the next morning in the next evening.

So they could be prepared to have years to hear so we we'd make a little list not tomorrow won't you listen for the pastor or listen for daddy when he talks about this in this verse and this and this verse and this in this verse. So if they could be conscionable hearers that's part of preparing for worship.

Tony Payne is a contemporary our author and he wrote a wonderful book it's just many book it's called how to walk into church. I stumbled on it. I got lucky one day and I stumbled upon this little book no and God's providence a stumbled upon this little book how to walk into church.

I thought interesting name. I'm gonna read it and I read it. And it's basically how we need to be preparing ourselves and how you know, we their churches that have getting ready sessions when they when the people get in the worship hall. One church. I I know because it the getting in the spirit not getting in the spirit getting in the spirit.

We should already be in the spirit when we walk through the doors and that's what Tony Payne talks about how to prepare ourselves as we go to the church house so that when we walk in. We can tribute to the worship. That we're ready to worship. Families singles couples all ages are ready to worship we refer to you know worship as one of the means of grace this is back to my introduction.

You want your children to believe this stuff. Have them in the context where God works. How many times does God say that he is with his people when they're gathered. Yes, he's with

them. When they're out on their own or when they're sitting at home and their families God's with us always.

But there's something special he promises when we're gathered together as his corporate people as his clan. You can say wonder why he does that I don't know why does that but he says he does and I believe it.

I think I tell you why I think I think it's because of the heaven thing we're all going to be together in heaven. And this is a picture of heaven on earth and so God's there with his people blessing them hearing from them. And in the worship all those elements.

God's word being read. God's word being sung. God's word being preached. God's word being prayed are just constantly in the year. And we pray just like the first chapter of Westminster confession says we pray that the Holy Spirit will take all of those means of grace and make them effectual.

Because we don't believe it's mechanical we don't believe it's magical. We believe it's the Holy Spirit. But if those means of grace are not there. Not don't go out here and say anything something. I didn't say. But the Holy Spirit that's how the Holy Spirit works. God chose to use the means of grace and so the Spirit the third person the Godhead uses those means of grace that he's already told us he uses if they're not there.

He's not there.

That's why it's important for us to gather corporately to worship our great God forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, but back to the get getting getting ready or preparing. And by the way corporate worship the means of grace or primarily the sacraments. In corporate worship scripture, read and preached and heard and prayer.

Really shouldn't surprise us then that. In the family context the sacraments aren't going to be there because fathers are not commanded to baptize in the name of the father son. Holy Spirit the church is. But what is there well the word of God read and heard and prayer. Now.

We also sing we publish our psalms and hymns a month or two in advance. And I put links at the bottom. Internet links where they can click and go to hear the tunes played if they need help with the tunes. So they can use them and their family worship time we used to do that with our children who would sing.

Our children have grown now just Carol and I and we know this psalms and him is pretty well. But the ordinary means of grace in family worship. You have just recently actually the ARP published a directory a provisional directory for family worship during this covenant thing. That was the impetus that was the spark that got him on their toes to do it it's quite good basically just follows the old one there was approved by the general assembly of the Church of Scotland for piety and uniformity and secret and private worship and mutual edification, you know titles of things back then if they didn't fill the whole page they weren't a legitimate title and so that's the title right there several years ago.

Greenville seminary republished it. With annotations to help families and individuals worship. Their great God on their own. You say well this you know is okay to call that worship. Yes, but listen our private and core and family worship should only enhance and drive us to corporate worship.

It's not a substitute. One of the fears I have right now during this time when a lot of people are streaming is that they're going to become comfortable with their pajamas and I'm worshipping God at home by myself and every week we're streaming because we have some older and quite sickly people who are concerned.

So we're streaming the 11 o'clock service the six o'clock service, but one of the things we keep reminding them is look. This doesn't substitute for corporate gathered worship because they can't see us toast one another. With the Lord's Supper. They can't participate in the Lord's Supper because there's no elders there to administer it to them.

It's not an individual thing. It's its preparatory the family and private worship. David is a great example of this. I wish we had time for me just go on and on from Psalm 42, you know, the one as the heart pants so my soul pants for you oh Lord, what's the context we're not sure exactly it's either David.

Running from Saul before he's king or it's David running from his son. Absalom. Doesn't matter which one he's not able to be. In worship with the people. And what does he say oh it's okay. Lord. I'm so thankful that I can just have this time of personal private worship here on the golf course.

I go to the Titans game to glorify. God. I'm worshipping you here while all those Yahoos are back in the building singing those old dreary psalms about dashing children's heads against the stones.

We're laughing but there are people that actually talk like that.

What does David say? How I long to go up to the house of the Lord again like I used to. Every godly older Christian I know who becomes infirm. Not able to be out of the home not able to be out of the nursing home the first thing they say every time I go to visit is oh I miss worship.

I worked I miss church. Of course they do. They go to the chapel. And they read their Bibles and they pray. But it's not the same. That's all preparatory for. The Lord's Day worshipping with God's people being part of the heavenly host the gathered saints. So family worships important.

Practical word. Parents.

Know your children. Observe their ages.

Sometimes five minutes. Is a is it. Sometimes fifteen. As they get older and may stretch into thirty because they have questions good solid questions. But no, you know, you don't want to bore them. With God's word. That's awful.

Also, don't assume that they're not listening.

My ends was a squirt still as a squirmer he's 20. One day in South Carolina one evening, we're having family worship we're in the boys' room that night. We'd move it around and I'm sitting on the floor and Ian is on the bottom bunk. And he has gotten big enough to where his feet would reach the mattress above him.

And he is doing push-ups with his feet against that mattress and he's pushing off the wall to see how far he'd come off the edge of the bed without falling. And finally, I said son. Sit up. Do you not care that this is God's word. He said yes, daddy.

I said well. You're not paying attention. You're not honoring God. I'm sorry. I said, okay. I just want to show you. What have I been saying? Because you know, I listen to a word. And he told me everything that I'd said and everything God had said and I felt miserable.

So when they squirm it's okay. You might want to check them out, be sure they are listening but. Don't let those kind of things distract you and put you off your games, so to speak or discontinue. I'll wait till they get older they're not getting anything out of this.

It's train up your child when he's young.

And then. Very brief personal worship dads are the heads of the house. You need to have time that you spending God's word so that when you spend time with the family and God's Word. You have something to say. Read good books, if you don't know good books ask him he has a stack waiting for you.

I'll guarantee every good pastor does.

Husband husbands, you're not just dead many of your husbands, you need to make time for mom to have some quiet time too to read her Bible and to study and to pray and the kids need you anyway. So let her time away be your time with the kiddos.

Pray. So that when you pray with your children.

They have a sense that you know. Dad dad prays. He knows what he's doing. And by the way, don't just pray. For your children pray with your children. Let your children pray in those family times, it's not corporate worship, you're not violating God's word. They need to learn how to pray.

I'm reminded of the story of Stonewall Jackson, he had not been taught to pray he had not been allowed to pray as a child. And the first time he's called on by his pastor Reverend White in Lexington Virginia, he was adult man and he finished and said, I'll never do that again.

And his pastor said yes, you will. Tomorrow night. And he had him pray in public and pray in public until he became one of the spiritual leaders of the church and prayer was what he was known for. That first night was miserable because he hadn't been trained to pray he didn't know how to pray.

He didn't even know the Lord's prayer, hardly. So pray for them, yes. Pray with them. And struck them.

Then. When we prayed we've read our Bibles we've sung the hymns and psalms and spiritual songs all through the day we do it with our families. It'll make Sunday even more sweet. It'll make Sunday mornings and Sunday worship more meaningful. You know how it is you go to a conference and you don't have a clue what the speakers are going to talk about like this one.

And they take off and you're not ready. Don't know what that's about but if you know what the sign topics are and you've kind of been thinking about it and it's in your senior field, that's why you're there at the conference. It makes it so much more beneficial. It's the same way with this in your personal in your family worship and then you come in and it'll make the singing more boisterous it'll make the preaching better.

Her John MacArthur once they see y'all didn't know you could hear me quote. Presbyterians. Baptist and even nuns. No, nons. John's not a nun. He's anonymity. Okay. I heard him say once. Before you say the pastor's sermon was bad it's probably your fault.

And there's a lot of truth in that because we didn't come prepared. We didn't have our hearts prepared and we didn't have our minds renewed ready to receive. We were that cold frozen cup that hot coffee got poured into and it just disintegrated. Instead of receiving it well. That's grace imparted.

The means of grace private time family time corporate time. Is any wonder then. That David long like a heart panting he longed in the worship with God's people. He lived it every day. Thank you. Father for this time and pray for your you're making it good for us in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Dment. And then I think for this goes straight over for lunch.

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