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“WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!”

“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” [Joshua 24:15]

It is indeed true, visit our churches, and you may perhaps see something in the form of godliness still subsisting among us; but even that is scarcely to be met within private houses. So that were the blessed angels to come, as in the patriarchal age, and observe our spiritual condition at home, would they not be tempted to say as Abraham said to Abimilech, “Surely, the fear of God is not in this place.” (Genesis 20:11)

How such a general neglect of family-religion first began to overspread the Christian world, is difficult to determine. As for the primitive Christians, I am positive it was not so with them: No, they had not so learned Christ, as falsely to imagine religion was to be confined solely to their assemblies for public worship; but, on the contrary, behaved with such piety and exemplary holiness in their private families, that St. Paul often styles their house a church: “Salute such a one, says he, and the church which is in his house.” And, I believe, we must forever despair of seeing a primitive spirit of piety revived in the world, till we are so happy as to see a revival of primitive family religion; and persons unanimously resolving with good old Joshua, in the words of the text, “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” AMEN.

— *George Whitefield (1714-1770)*

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

