

# THE Home

(LR)

Eph. 5

There are many surprises to the Christian when he discovers that the Bible is true and that Jesus works for him today. And that when he enters into the context of letting Jesus Christ be Lord and letting the HS, who indwells him, fill him and control him, I say it is a life of surprises in that we are constantly surprised what Jesus is able to do in our lives. And it just keeps on getting better. And there's never any end to the freshness and newness of Jesus and of what Jesus wants to do in our lives. And I want to talk to you tonight for a few moments about what I consider to be probably the greatest area of blessing and the greatest point of revival that God has brought in my own life. I do not want to speak to you tonight, or have I tried to speak to you any night this week, about anything that I have not known experientially. And what I am trying to share with you in these services together are things that I have not only learned from the word of God but that God has allowed me to experience and I want to share with you tonight what I consider to be ~~possibly~~ possibly the greatest area of blessing and the greatest point of personal revival that God has blessed us with -- and that is in the area of the home. Now God has been gracious to give personal revival and God has been gracious to give church revival but the greatest revival of all, in my own life, took place in the home. And I believe really that's where it ought to be. Because it really makes very little difference what kind of personal revival we have or what kind of revival we have in our church if it is not a revival in the home, then it is not true and lasting revival. Because you see what you are at home is what you are. I find it very easy to live a public life. And to live a public life that is decent and respectable. It's easy for me to come to church and act pious and say pious things and spiritual things. And everybody says ~~oh~~ oh, my how spiritual how religious, what a good man he is

But that's really not the test. It's not your public life that is the test of your Christianity - but rather it is your private life. And what you are at home IS WHAT YOU ARE. And honestly, many of us aren't very much at home when it comes to spiritual things. Because you see a Christian home is not a ~~XXX~~ home in which the members are Christian. That does not constitute a Christian home. Because there are a great many Christians whose homes -- instead of being heaven on earth are simply hell on earth. And every ~~XXXX~~ day there are Christians whose homes are breaking up, practically not a month goes by that I don't hear of some former friend of mine, former ~~XX~~ seminary colleague - a pastor, an evangelist somewhere whose home has not broken up and is in the midst of a divorce. Now they were Christian people. Some of these ~~XXX~~ people have been greatly used of God, what was wrong?.... I thought if you were a Christian you just ~~XXXXXXXX~~ automatically had a Christian home. Not necessarily. A great many Christians do not have Christian homes. And one reason that our young people are growing up to despise the faith of their moms and dads is because they have a Christian mother and dad at church but they have a heathen mom~~X~~ and dad at home. They don't see Christianity working where it really counts. Any body knows Christianity is going to work within the four walls of a church. We are all going to testify here, we're all going to pray here. We're all going to smile here, we're all going to treat each others decently here, this isn't really where it counts. And if Christianity doesn't really exhibit itself where life is really lived, then it's worthless. And our young people are growing up and seeing that mom and dad's religion that they talk about and preach about really doesn't make any difference at all in their home life, and so they are growing up to ~~XXX~~ despise the faith of their fathers and the faith of their mothers. And I am convinced that the greatest need today in SBC is a revival in the home life. I think we've ~~XXXX~~ gone at it exactly backwards. We've been trying to build churches when we ought to be building homes. And if the home is build and the home is strengthened