

V. Homes Where God's Service is Basic

A. Defining the Concept:

This is an ideal and one for which we might all strive...a home where the serving of God is basic to whatever else is done. His testimony is more important than things, social engagements, demographic considerations, etc. No attempt by us will be perfect in this area but an honest effort can go a long way with prayer and the guidance of the Scripture. The key is to learn to think of God first and how the Divine intentions may be fulfilled through us. A home with this concept in practice will certainly be one that honors the Lord because...it has given Him the place or pre-eminence and authority. Of the several homes in the Scripture that may be selected, three have been selected.

B. The Home of Philemon

1. The Philemon Story, summarized, against the content of the letter written to him by Paul.
 - a. Paul in prison
 - b. The runaway slave
 - c. A conversion experience
 - d. An opportunity for redress
 - e. Paul's asking for a personal favor.
2. Philemon's contribution to the testimony: a case where the work of God is basic.
 - a. his character, vs. 1
 - b. his family, vs 2
 - c. his house, vs 3
 - d. his service, vs 7
 - e. his performance, vs 21
3. His home was used as a witnessing point probably more than anything else. The serving of God seems to have dominated his life and this does not make one a social liability but does render one very useful to the Lord and His people. Many of us do not have the possessions and position of Philemon but it would be a great honor to God if we took a similar view with regard to what we have.