

Home Makes the Difference

Proverbs 17:1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

To the casual reader this verse may first seem to only offer the lesson that little can be much, and much can be little. However, a closer look and deeper considerations will show us an even deeper though related lesson.

When a man offered sacrifices at the temple only part of the sacrifice was burned upon the altar. A good portion of that offering was taken home by the worshipper. It was generally at these times that feasts were enjoined.

The house spoken of here was full of sacrifices. Thus, we gather that there had been much worship and an oblation of significance given. All this was witnessed by the priest and all those present in the court of the temple.

This house exhibited to all that it was faithful, reverent and charitable in the things of God. It would be reasonable to surmise that this home was blessed and that the precepts of God were kept by all the inhabitants and they were a holy people.

However, this house was not what it appeared to be in public worship. For in this house there was strife.

My dear friend it is not what we are *in* church that counts, but it is what we are *after* church that makes the difference.

Our religious displays of outward praise, financial support, and public display are not worth very much if there is not peace in our homes. For our religion begins and ends under our own roofs. The word of God says that a dry or rotten piece of meat, eaten in peace is better than a whole bunch of riches and religion without the solicitude of God's Holy Spirit.

Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church! Wives be submitted to your own husband, in meekness and a quiet spirit. Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Families, may the

works within the walls of our house, mirror our worship within the walls of God's House.