

**“Will The Family Circle Be Unbroken”**  
**Ephesians 3:14-15**

Introduction: A man once stated, “A prepared messenger is more important than a prepared message.” Certainly, this statement is true concerning the preacher and his people. If a man of God is to be effective, he must be earnest in his life. There must be an element of consecration on his part if there is going to be an impact upon those that hear him. There is a tremendous amount of responsibility placed upon the shoulders of a pastor that intends to care for his flock. Knowing this, the Bible offers to us several suggestions that the minister should be. Some of these are that:

1. A Preacher Should Prepare II Timothy 2:15- *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*
2. A Preacher Should Provide I Peter 5:2- *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind”*
3. A Preacher Should Protect I Timothy 6:12- *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*
4. A Preacher Should Plant II Timothy 2:2- *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*
5. A Preacher Should Pray Acts 6:4- *“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”*
  - a. The Lost is Buried Ephesians 2:1- *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”*
  - b. The Layman is Busy (Notice their positions)
    - (1) Walking Ephesians 4:1, 17, 5:2, 8, 15
    - (2) Waiting Ephesians 2:6
    - (3) Withstanding Ephesians 6:11, 13-14
  - c. The Leader is Bowing Ephesians 3:14- *“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (The only reason the church members can be walking, waiting, and withstanding is because the pastor is praying.)

Body: It is this last point that we will be looking at as it relates to Ephesians chapter three. This is the second prayer of Paul (the first is in Ephesians 1:15-23) for the church at Ephesus found in this book. The Ephesians held a special place in the heart of Paul and therefore he is praying for their spiritual advancement. He is praying concerning the family of God. There is one in heaven, and there is one on earth (v. 15). He is praying that the family of God because he does not want the circle to be broken. Notice:

- I. The Circle Can Be Broken Because of Sin Luke 15:11-13
  - A. Notice that the Prodigal was the baby of the family.
  - B. How many children have ripped the heart of the parents out because of sin? You have trained them and taught them, but now they have jumped ship.

- C. Warning: Do not put up a wall, but be waiting on their return! Luke 15:17-20
- D. Illustration: Boy in jail in Georgia
- E. Illustration: Boy in prison in Virginia

II. The Circle Can Be Broken Because of Service Ruth 1:1-5

- A. My greatest desire in life is to serve God with my children. However, that circle can be broken when family members get their eyes on the greener pastures on the other side.
- B. What can lead a family member away from the will of God? (jobs, coldness, etc.)
- C. Naomi came to the point in her life that she wanted to return (v. 6). However, when she did return, things were different (vs. 19-22).

III. The Circle Can Be Broken Because of Salvation Luke 16:19-23

- A. Could it be a possibility that this man's wife and children were saved? Luke 16:27-28
- B. Maybe not, but I do know of a young preacher whose daddy was not saved (Acts 16:1). They determined to live for God, even if daddy does not go! II Timothy 1:5
- C. My heart breaks when I think about my family circle being broken. Therefore, I want to win as many loved ones as I can to Jesus.