

“House to House”

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INTRODUCTION:

- i. **John 20:3-10** – “Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.”
 - This speaks of what they did after Jesus died, not realizing that He must rise again from the dead
 - Yet, this sounds an awful like what disciples today do every time a closing prayer is uttered at an assembly
- ii. What does the idea of “house to house” bring to your mind?
 - Door-to-door salesmen or pesky solicitations
 - The great inconvenience of opening your home to people
 - Fear of someone showing up at your house to visit, to help, or to share your company
- iii. Does it bring to your mind ideas like bible study and hospitality—two essential Christian activities that are part of a dying and lost art among Christians today? How are we using our homes to the glory of God?

DISCUSSION:

I. USING OUR HOMES FOR HOSPITALITY

- A. **Acts 2:40-47** – The first century saints broke bread from house to house
 1. Such a hospitable spirit is typical of Christians – **cf. Matt. 25:31-36**
 2. We are to be given to it – **Rom 12:13**
 3. We are to practice it without grumbling – **1 Pet. 4:9-10**
 4. We are to be mindful of it – **Heb. 13:2**
 5. It is a necessary of those who would lead local congregations – **1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8**
- B. There are many reasons (or are they excuses and rationalizations) we have for not doing this, but can you think of any reasons we should be doing this?
 1. Letting people into your life, instead of expecting all to be done within’ the confines of a church building – **cf. 1 Cor. 11:21-22**
 2. Sharing in the good things you have, even if the one you share with can easily repay you, but especially if they cannot ever repay you – **cf. Luke 14:12-14; Gal. 6:10**
 3. Bidding God’s speed to strangers on their way – **cf. 2 John 9-11**

II. USING OUR HOMES FOR BIBLE STUDY

- A. **Acts 20:17-24** – The first century saints studied God’s word together in their homes
 1. If Paul was teaching from house to house, it only seems natural that the homes of these Christians were open for such activities – **cf. Acts 18:6-8**
 2. Cornelius gathered all his family and friends in his home to hear the words of salvation which would be spoken by Paul – **cf. Acts 10:24, 33**
 3. Home should be a place of Bible study, not just for families, but as a part of your life – **cf. 1 Cor. 14:35**
- B. There are a million excuses why you might think you can’t host a Bible study in your home, with your neighbors, friends and family, but do you really have any good reasons? Are there not more pressing reasons why you should?
 1. Whole households were converted in the first century. How did that happen? – **cf. Acts 16:15, 31**
 2. The home must be used for more than just social activities (even negative ones) – **cf. 1 Tim. 5:13**
 3. First century saints opened their homes up to be used as churches. How much more possible is it to open up and arrange Bible studies in your home? – **cf. Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philem. 2**

CONCLUSION:

- i. This is not an exclusive list of activities that can be had in the home (**Acts 12:12**), but it does demonstrate two items that we are not as given to as we should be or could be. The amazing thing is that these two activities do not need to be mutually exclusive

- I am not advocating any modern day house church movement, where church is moved into the home, as there is a clear argument against such thinking in the modern sense (churches can meet in homes, but it not inherently better that churches do meet in home for convenience and casualness)
 - I am suggesting that we have much greater liberty when in our homes for the activities we engage in, and they need not be either social or spiritual, but can be spiritually social as we strive to serve the Lord in this day and age
- ii. The challenge is for us to realize that our homes are a blessing from God, no matter how humble or how great. How are we using these blessings to the glory of God? Are we using them as the first century saints used their homes?