



“LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST.” — JOHN 4:35

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## Family Ties

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"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph. 3:14-21

A very pleasant good morning to all of my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. Let me tell you what I want to talk about for a few minutes today. It is the wonderful family of God. Did you notice that this 15th verse refers to, "the whole family in heaven and earth". You see, some of the redeemed of God's children have already passed beyond the bounds of earthly ties where they are free from pain and sorrow. But others in this spiritual family yet remain in a natural body which is subject to pain and some times sorrow of heart because we are still in the world but not of the world. But we are looking forward to a grand and wonderful reunion one of these days when all of the redeemed of all ages shall be one unbroken family around the throne of God. Won't that be a wonderful day?

There is something about family ties and relationship which binds brothers and sisters and of course, other relatives also quite closely together. They

are interested in one another and they are concerned about each other. Of course these natural relationships are broken sometimes through jealousy, hatred, and various other evil influences. But I am speaking about family ties in the natural sense. It is a real thrill to me to see a family so closely knit together that they cannot be separated but often they work together in the same type of occupation or maybe side by side. Sometimes certain enterprises are operated almost exclusively by a family. Now just as this is true in the natural, even more so is it true in the spiritual family of God. You see, one of the things that holds people together is the fact that they have something in common. They see alike and think alike. How true this is with God's children. They share in a common cause of promoting the saving grace of our Lord, in carrying out the great commission to preach the gospel in all the world. So naturally when they meet together they have a common

