

## **SPECIAL SERMON:** ***"Heaven Help the Home - Part 2"***

### **INTRODUCTION**

"The head of the family should be able to read the Scriptures as well as to lead in prayer. . . The character of the Church and of the state depends on the character of the family. If religion dies out in the family, it cannot elsewhere be maintained. A man's responsibility to his children, as well as to God, binds him to make his house a Bethel; if not a Bethel, it will be a dwelling place of evil spirits." (Charles Hodge)

#### Review:

1. **The Context:** Psalm 127 is a Song of Ascent sung by families of Israel journeying to Jerusalem.
2. **The Contradiction:** Solomon did not live out what he wrote; danger of not obeying God's Word.
3. **The Caution:** The word "vain" (v.1-2) indicates the danger of failing or succeeding without God.

### **THE CELEBRATION (PSALM 127:3-5)**

#### **A. The Responsibility of Children**

- Children are a **heritage**: an *allotment* or *assignment* (v.3)  
Psalm 105:11

". . . God is their ultimate parent. . . Trust your children to the sovereignty and providence of God. . . We're only instruments in the hands of the redeemer. His love is stronger. His wisdom greater. His care is better. His plan is wiser. His commitment is deeper." (De Courcy)

- Application: Parenting is a matter of **stewardship**. Don't outsource your children.

#### **B. The Reward of Children**

- Children are a source of **happiness**, not **inconvenience**.
- Children are one of heaven's best gifts.

#### Trends in the culture today:

1. *The Murder of Children* – Politicians unable to support the "Born Alive Survivors Protection Act".
  2. *Contraception* – separates pleasure of sex from procreation (Note: Kindred is not against contraception, but it is an issue to be handled carefully and with wisdom).
  3. *Singleness is idealized* – There are benefits to singleness in terms of undistracted devotion to the Lord, but it should not be misused as a means to avoid responsibility.
- **General principle:** Adulthood means marriage, marriage means children.

"Somehow we have come to believe that children are a burden instead of a blessing. If our churches are going to stem the tide of cultural and moral decay, we must change our disposition toward children. We decry the work of abortionists but seldom say a word to the intentionally childless couples who slay even the possibility of life in the womb." (Voddie Baucham)

#### **C. The Refuge of Children**

- **Verses 4-5:** Children are a means of protection for the parent.
- **"arrows/quiver"**: Image of a warrior with multiple arrows.
- **"enemies in the gate"**: picture of children rising to defend their parents against unjust accusation.

# Sermon Application Questions

March 3, 2019

## REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Psalm 127:3 teaches us that children are a blessing, not a burden. What are some ways that the society and culture de-value children? How can we as the church embrace the blessing of children?

2

In his message Pastor Philip quoted from Paul Tripp's book on Parenting:

*"Perhaps the best thing that you do for your children is nothing something you do with them, but something that you do for yourself. . .the most important thing you do for your children is to remember the One who sent you, and in remembering the one who sent you, teach your heart to rest."*

What do you think about this quote? Why is it easy to have hearts that are not at rest in the Lord?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Genesis 1:27-28**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### **Genesis 9:1, 7**

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. . . And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

### **Exodus 1:7**

But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

### **Proverbs 31:28-31**

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

### **1 Timothy 5:4, 8**

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. . . But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2

**Read Psalm 128** in light of the idea that “*only God can build a home*”. What are some elements of home life that only God can accomplish by His power and grace?

Apply this to your own life: are you practicing *humble dependence* on the Lord for the things that only He can accomplish? (Note: this point can be applied to any area of life, not just family life).

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip talked about the idea that children begin their lives depending on their parents. As the parents grow older, the roles reverse and parents are dependent on their children. What are some specific ways that adult children can honor their parents as the parents grow older? (Ephesians 6:2-3)

→

→

→

2

The truth that *only God can build a home* should lead us to verbalize specific expressions of thanksgiving when we see God work in our lives to bless us. What are some specific blessings that you can thank God for? Take a moment and write out a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord in your own words.

*“Trust your children to the sovereignty and providence of God. . .  
His love is stronger. His wisdom greater.  
His care is better. His plan is wiser.  
His commitment is deeper.”  
(Philip De Courcy)*