

SPECIAL SERMON: ***"Heaven Help the Home - Part 1"***

INTRODUCTION: God is the source of all blessing.

- **Psalm 127 is a wisdom psalm:** written with the intent of giving us a skill for living.

"We do marriage according to Dr. Phil, raise our children according to Dr. Spock, govern our sex lives according to Dr. Ruth, and only run to Dr. Jesus when things have gotten so bad we can't find another doctor to help us."
(Voddie Baucham)

THE CONTEXT (PSALM 127:1)

- A **Song of Ascent** was sung by families of Israel who journeyed up to Jerusalem three times a year.
- A reminder that the strength of Israel was found in **God-fearing families**.

The Importance of the Family:

1. **God's Revelation:** The Bible begins with extended teaching on the family. (Gen 1-2)
2. **The Order of Creation:** The family is the basic building block of a strong society.
3. **The Serpent's Attack:** The family is a target from the very beginning
4. **The Place of Discipleship:** Parents are called to "*bring up their children*" in the fear of the Lord.
5. **The Joy of a Happy Home:** Few things in life will afford you the joy of a happy marriage and children.

". . .our success as a society depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house." (Barbara Bush)

"My children still come home to see me." (George H.W. Bush, speaking of his greatest achievement)

The CONTRADICTION (PSALM 127:1)

- The superscription indicates that this Psalm was **written by Solomon**.
- Solomon was a **writer of the word** but he was not a **doer of the word**.
1 Kings 11:4, James 1:22

"There's always a great danger. . .that we fill our notebooks and yet we never rewrite a single sentence in our life story." (De Courcy)

The CAUTION (PSALM 127:1-2)

- **Vain (3x)** – Indicates that there is the danger of failing miserably or succeeding more miserably without God.
- Only that which is **rooted in Christ** has any true and lasting joy.
- **Anxious toil** – describes the type of godless activity where you are working with an anxious heart.
1 Corinthians 15:10; Philippians 2:12-13

"Here's the caution of raising our families and building our cities with a complete dependence on human ingenuity and industry. . . Avoid the sin of serving God without God." (De Courcy)

- **Application to Parenting:** Don't become an overanxious, overbearing parent.

"Do a few fundamental things well as a parent and then fundamentally leave the results to God." (De Courcy)

Sermon Application Questions

February 20, 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

One of the main ideas in the sermon was that there is such a thing as "**anxious toil**" (Psalm 127:2). Pastor Philip defined this as "*godless activity. . . where you're working with an anxious heart.*" What do you think about this idea of "anxious toil"? In what situations do you find yourself working in this way?

2

When Pastor Philip's mom is asked what is the secret to her parenting, she has simply said: "I prayed a lot". What did you think about this statement? How does it cause you to reflect on your own life and ministry?

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.

Numbers 6:24-27

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

1 Corinthians 4:7

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Isaiah 30:15

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

2

Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 in light of the idea that you can *“fail miserably without God or succeed more miserably without God”*. What are some of the great things that Solomon accomplished in his life? What was his conclusion concerning all these pursuits (v.11)?

Apply this to your own life: is there anything that you are seeking to accomplish that doesn't have God at the center?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Reflect on Pastor Philip's testimony of how his own parents raised him. He related that his parents did a few fundamental things well and then surrendered their lives to the Lord. What were some ways that you were encouraged by this testimony? Write out a few of the "fundamental things" that you want to be faithful to in your life.

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2

Pastor Philip encouraged us that "one of the best things that we can do is pray." *A little bit of God makes up for a great deal less of us*. What are some specific things that you want to be faithful to pray for this week?

“Don't try to be omni-competent. Work hard, trust God and then rest.”
(Philip De Courcy)