

The Psalm of the Home

Psalm 127

Introduction:

1. There was a tragic story in the newspaper last week about a man in Allen, Texas, outside of Dallas, who received a letter from a married couple, friends of his. It arrived by Airborne Express, and when he opened it he was alarmed by its contents. The couple had written that they were at the end of their rope, they had exhausted their options, they were out of work and out of money. Even worse, they were estranged from their families for some reason or other. They asked this man to be the executor of what little estate they had, and told him they wanted to be cremated. As the man read the letter, he grew alarmed and called the police who rushed to the couple's house, but it was too late. They had shot themselves. The man told the newspaper that the couple had lost two things—their relationship with God and their relationship with their family. And without those two things, they just couldn't go on.
2. America's homes are under attack
3. Some tell us that the home that we used to know is obsolete
4. The home is the first institution built by Almighty God
 - a. The home is from divine establishment
 - b. It was established by the Creator for man's deepest psychological, physical, emotional and spiritual needs.
5. Since the home is of divine origin, family and marriage relationships are supreme over all other human relationships
6. Your relationship to your mate should come before your business, your pleasure and your friends
 - a. It is to be a supreme, unconditional commitment
 - b. Marriage is not for a 90 day trial period - it is a lifetime commitment
7. A psychologist wanted to find out how much time fathers spend with their children compared to how much time they think they share. Fathers were asked to estimate how much time they spent playing and interacting with their small children. Estimates averaged from fifteen to twenty minutes per day. Microphones were then attached to the fathers and the results were astounding: "The average dad-child times was thirty-seven seconds a day." Maybe that is why one cartoonist drew the characterization of a young boy standing next to his father's recliner. The father was engrossed in the sports page, while the impatient boy pounded the leather of his baseball glove. Finally the energetic little guy said, "Play with me or trade me!"

I. Construction of the Home – vs 1a

1a Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...

1. A good Christian home must be built – it doesn't just happen
 - a) *Some think that they can build a home by human wit or wisdom*
 - b) *Unless the Lord is the head of your home, all of your work will be for nothing (vain)*
2. Building a home is a complicated matter and human wisdom will not produce a happy, fruitful and prosperous Christian home
3. The Person you need building your home is Jesus Christ
 - a) *Jesus is the greatest home builder*
 - b) *He built the first home in the Garden of Eden*
 - c) *He is now building our heavenly homes – Jn 14:2b*
4. The Plan you need to following in building your home is God's Word
5. The devil is the greatest home wrecker - If he can get into our homes, he can really hurt you

II. Protection of the Home – vs 1b

1b ...except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

- The One who builds the home is the one who indeed must protect the home from enemies that would attack and destroy it
- Human watching is of no use without divine watching
- Who is going to protect the home?
 - City hall?
 - The state govt?
 - The president?

A. Enemy of Immorality

1. Our homes are under attack as never before
2. The “free love” philosophy of the late 60s / 70s changed our society
 - a) *Of course, there is no such thing as “free love”*
 - b) *Love is never free – it costs*
 - c) *Love is worth everything that you pay for it but it is the costliest thing around – it takes commitment*
3. The Bible says...
 - a) *Ex 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
 - b) *1Co 6:18 Flee fornication.*
4. The sins of adultery, fornication or sexual perversion will do more damage to your family than any other sins
 - a) *Sexual sins harden the heart against God*
 - b) *Sexual sins kill your sensitivity to true love*
5. Immorality was the downfall of Rome, Greece, Egypt, Babylon
6. It will be the sin that destroys America

B. Enemy of Alcohol

Pr 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

1. The devil will try to destroy your home through immorality
2. He will try to destroy the homes of America through alcohol
3. We talk about drug abuse today - alcohol is the worst drug in today
 - a) *A toxin is a poison -when a person is "intoxicated" he is poisoned*
 - b) *That is why one vomits when he is intoxicated – he has more sense in his stomach than he does in his head*
4. Alcohol poisons the body and the home

C. Enemy of Selfishness – Phil 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

1. Selfishness is an enemy of the home
2. Many are seeking happiness for themselves rather than seeking to give it to others
3. You can't build a home on a foundation of self-centered behavior and expect that home to withstand the onslaughts of the world

D. Enemy of Stress

1. Our homes are under a lot of stress today
 - a) *Between the TV, the computer*
 - b) *The video games, outside activities*
 - c) *Jobs and school*
 - d) *There's hardly a moment for the family to relate to one another*
2. With working mothers and fathers and latch-key kids – the home is little more than a restaurant and a garage
3. We don't have enough wisdom to build a Christian home
4. We don't have enough strength to protect it if we could build it
5. Only the Lord can build and protect a home

III. Contentment of the Home – vs 2 ←

1. The psalmist here deals with materialism and discontentment
2. More people are burning the candle at both ends to have more stuff
 - a) *Once we get it we don't enjoy what we have*
 - b) *The psalmist calls it the "bread of sorrows"*
 - c) *1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*
3. What good are all the things if we don't enjoy them?
4. Only God can meet our deepest needs
 - a) *Your spouse can't meet your deepest needs*
 - b) *We all need security, sufficiency and significance*
 - c) *Your spouse can't meet these needs, but the Lord can*

IV. Children of the Home – vs 3-5

A. Our Heritage – Desirability of Children

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

1. Children are a blessing from the Lord – they are not a burden /penalty
 - a) *Feminist movement told women that children will crimp their style*
 - b) *“If you do have some, then don’t have many”*
 - c) *”Don’t let children keep you from pursuing your career and being somebody*
2. Many today believe that having children is too expensive
 - a) *“If we have one or two children, then I might not be able to drive the kind of car I want.”*
 - b) *“It costs so much to educate children that I might not be able to have the kind of house I want”*
 - c) *“Children make a rich man, poor.”*
3. They have it backwards
 - a) *Children make a poor man rich*
 - b) *A rich man can’t take any of his money to heaven*
 - c) *But we can take all our children to heaven*
4. Children are a gift of God

B. Our Helpers – Directability of Children

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

1. Arrows can be directed
 - a) *While they are in your hands they can be directed*
 - b) *After the arrow leaves the bow it can’t be directed*
2. If you possibly can raise your children yourself
 - a) *Don’t farm them out*
 - b) *Don’t let someone else raise them for you*
 - c) *My hat is off to any woman who has to work to put food on the table, a roof over her children’s heads and clothes on their backs*
3. Some young mothers who are working for that third car, that bigger house, the swimming pool etc – you are making a big mistake.
4. Those children need you – no one can take your place
5. We have a responsibility to direct our children

C. Our Happiness – Dependability of Children

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

1. Children who are properly polished, pointed and propelled are not going to be put to shame
2. Your children are going into a world filled with ungodly philosophies
 - a) *Atheism*
 - b) *Cultism*
 - c) *Materialism*
3. They will not be put to shame because they have something
 - a) *Something you put into them – mom*
 - b) *Something you put into them – dad*
4. There are women who want to do something great
 - a) *They don't want to be mothers – keep the nursery*
 - b) *They don't want to wipe little noses and change diapers*
 - c) *They want to do something great*
5. Dear lady – the biggest thing that you will ever do is train up a little arrow to shoot at the enemy
 - a) You could be raising up a missionary or a preacher, a Christian lawyer, physician or business professional or a homemaker
 - b) An arrow can go where the warrior cannot go

Conclusion:

1. Make sure that Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life
 - a. If you are doing things that are not in his will, push them out
 - b. If you are not doing what he wants, the pull that into your life
 - c. Remember that our Lord had a short life – 33 yrs – and only 3 yrs of ministry time – he used his time carefully
2. Learn to commit everything you do to the Lord. Develop the practice of praying over your decisions, purchases, opportunities, involvements
3. Enjoy your children and grandchildren and work hard at building friendships with them
4. Lord, all is vain if You don't bless
Our moments and our days.
All is bare within our hearts
If we should miss Your ways.

So be the builder of the house,
The guardian of the gate.
Bestow on us Your will and work,
As we both work and wait.

And may we keep two things in view:
Two vital things to do:
To love the Lord with all our hearts,
And love our families, too.

Some time ago Gary Carter, former player for the New York Mets was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Over his 19-year career, he hit 324 home runs and drove in more than 1,200 runs. Some of Carter's speech was not reported in the media. His words reflected the emphases of Psalm 127. "Above all I want to thank my Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. A great verse that spoke to me while writing my speech that kind of explains what it's all about comes in Psalm 18. "I love you, Lord, you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my Savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call on the Lord, who is worthy of praise."

I praise the Lord, my God, my best friend, who gave me the ability, the love, the desire that brought me here today. Without You, I would be nothing. I thank you, Lord, for giving me such wonderful parents. My parents can't be here today in person, but I know that they are smiling down from Heaven today, because they have the best seats in the house. I've said to a lot of people that my father's on my right shoulder today and my mom's on my left....

...Well, to my immediate family there is so much to say, but not enough time to say it. So, the one thing I remember the most is how much the kids and Sandy would be at all the games. You know I never felt comfortable or relaxed until I saw their happy faces sitting in the stands behind home plate. What a blessing I've truly had for my wife and kids to be right there with me through it all...

...To my three precious children, I love you all very, very much and I'm so proud of each and every one of you and for all that you have done. I am so thankful that each one of you has chosen to walk with the Lord..."

There, it seems to me, is a perfect example of a man who knows the meaning of Psalm 127. The important thing is not being in the Hall of Fame, as wonderful as that may be. It isn't having a fabulous and famous career, as exciting as that may be. The important thing is our relationship with our Savior and our relationship with our families.

2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows:
for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

1. Harry and Ada Mae began their married life on the Lazy B ranch on the border between Arizona and New Mexico. At that time they had no electricity or running water. Harry worked hard on the ranch he inherited from his father. Life on the isolated ranch was difficult but Ada Mae was determined to instill in her kids a love for learning. She subscribed to magazines and bought books and newspapers. Harry instilled a work ethic in them. The kids worked along side him. They could drive a tractor, shoot a rifle, ride a horse and brand cattle. The younger daughter became a state senator in Arizona. The son took over the ranch when his father died and the older daughter became the first woman on the US Supreme Court - Sandra Day O'Connor. Harry Day extended himself into his community, his state and his nation through his children.