

Opening Illustration:

How many of you would say you desire God’s blessing to fall upon you? Have you ever prayed for God to bless you indeed, enlarge your coast, keep His hand with you, and keep you from evil so as not to cause pain? How has that worked out for you?

Transition to the experience faced by the pilgrims as they embarked one of three annual festivals in Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, and Booths – the Psalms of Ascent (120-134).

A pattern discovered (Psalms of Ascent:120-134)¹

- Difficulty – a situation of difficulty
- Deliverance – focuses on God’s power to keep
- Delight – the security in Zion and its God

Psalm 120-122 –

- 120 – Difficulty: the unkind words of ungodly people
- 121 – Deliverance from the Lord (I looked to the hills...)
- 122 – Security in Zion (Let us go to the house of the Lord...)

Psalm 123-125 –

- 123 – Difficulty: the ill and unjust treatment of people (contempt through scorn and pride) (3-4)
- 124 – Deliverance from the Lord
- 125 – Security in Zion (1)

Psalm 126-128 –

- 126 – Difficulty: I AM EXPERIENCING SPRITUAL APATHY! (4)
- 127 – Deliverance from the Lord (He builds the house.)
- 128 – Security in Zion (5)

Focus on Zion: Psalm 126 (vs. 1), Psalm 127 (vs. 1 – the city), Psalm 128 (vs. 5)

Sermon Title: Enjoying the Blessing of God

- **God delights in blessing those who fear Him. – Blessed or blessing 4x**
- **Those who fear the Lord learn to walk in His ways. – Fear of the Lord 2x**

I. God delights in blessing those who fear Him. – Blessed or blessing 4x

A. The blessing of God is measurable.

1. Internal happiness (verses 1 & 2) – *Asher*
2. External confirmation (verses 4 & 5) – *Barek*

B. The blessing of God is essential. (to combat the curse of sin.)

1. Man – fruitfulness [vs. 2] (compared to fruitlessness in Gen. 3:17-19)
2. Woman – fruitfulness [vs. 3 & 6] (compared to pain and potential fruitlessness in Gen. 3:15-16)

C. The blessing of God is providential.

¹ *Psalms by the Day: A New Devotional Translation* by Alec Motyer

1. The Lord is the only one who can enable you to reverse the curse. (2-3)
2. The Lord is the only one who can restore the peace. (5-6)

II. Those who fear the Lord learn to walk in His ways. – Fear of the Lord 2x

A. They demonstrate a reverent spirit. (1a & 4)

1. *Fear (yerē) to tremble*
2. *Stand in awe of someone*

[Proverbs 1:7](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. **(THE STARTING POINT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD)**

[Proverbs 8:13](#) The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. **(PRODUCES A HATRED OF EVIL IN WORDS AND DEEDS)**

[Psalm 86:11](#) Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. **(CONNECTED TO A DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD)**

[Psalm 112:1](#) Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! **(DELIGHTING IN GOD'S WORD)**

[Psalm 19:9](#) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. **(TRUSTING GOD'S WORD)**

B. They model a submissive will. (1b)

1. Providing action (James 1:22-25)
 - “who walks...” (hō-lēk) to go, to walk, to go along; the path of a ship who is deliberately directed by the rudder
2. Producing direction (James 1:26-27)
 - Orphans and widows
 - Keep yourself unspotted from the world

C. They develop an informed mind. (2-3)

1. Understanding the blessing of work (2)
 - Work was ordained by God to supply your need for food. (2)
 - Work was designed by God to supply your need for fulfillment. (Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:12-13, 22; 5:18; 8:15; I Timothy 6:17)
2. Embracing the blessing of raising a family (3)
 - Family was designed to supplement your need for help in subduing creation (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - Family was designed to supplement your need for companionship (Genesis 2:18-25)
 - The description of a vibrant marriage (3a)
 - Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house
 - Sexual attractiveness (Song of Songs 7:8)
 - Prosperity (Genesis 49:11)

- Sweetness (Judges 9:12-13)
- Peace (Micah 3:11)
- Fragrance (Song of Songs 2:13)
- A growing family (both numerically and spiritually – Psalm 127:3-5)
 - Your children (plural)
 - Will be like olive shoots (shathal – transplanted: Psalm 1:3; 92:13)
 - Around your table (family meals and tutelage like in Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Bookended (vs. 1 and 4) with the importance of FEARING THE LORD!

- “blessed” (Barek) be praised [also in verse 5]
- Man (ga-ber) young man: Ecclesiastes 12:1-2 and Psalm 119:9-11

D. They possess a confident heart. (5-6)

1. God is the source of his blessing. (5a)
2. God determines the extent of his blessing. (5b-6)

May you see... (5a and 6a): Imperatives (commands) which can never express a “precativ,” “you may be...” It is the Hebrew idiom of “imperative of certain outcomes” – a future even so sure of happening that it may be commanded. Equivalent to “you will without any possible doubt see...” (Moyter – page 378).

- Location – Zion
- Longevity – all the days of your life... see your children’s children
- Limit – Peace be upon Israel
 - The psalmist wants everyone in Israel to enjoy the happiness and goodness (prosperity of Jerusalem) he referred to earlier in the song (in verses 1 [blessed] and 2 [be well or good with you]).

Identify the marks of a man who fears the Lord in Psalm 112

- A reverential spirit (Psalm 128:1a & 4 / Psalm 112:1a)
- A submissive will (Psalm 128:1b / Psalm 112:1b)
- An informed mind (Psalm 128:2-4 / Psalm 112:2-6)
- A confident heart (Psalm 128:5-6 / Psalm 112:7-10)

Application:

- Are you hungry for God to bless you this morning? Why not call out to Him in prayer?
- Which of the marks of one who fears the Lord needs your attention today? Repent. Ask God for help. Find hope in His Word.

- A reverential spirit (Psalm 128:1a & 4 / Psalm 112:1a)
 - A submissive will (Psalm 128:1b / Psalm 112:1b)
 - An informed mind (Psalm 128:2-4 / Psalm 112:2-6)
 - A confident heart (Psalm 128:5-6 / Psalm 112:7-10)
 - How is God calling you to refocus your attention on your family or your work?
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EQUIP 10.27

Grandparenting 2 of 2

Biblical Grandparenting: Exploring God's Design for Disciple-Making and Passing Faith to Future Generations

Dr. Josh Mulvihill

Bethany House 2018

Review:

II. Scriptures Teaches

A. Understand grandchildren are a blessing

B. Pass Truth

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 Make them known to your children and your children's children

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, ...

You shall teach them diligently to your children

Psalm 71:16-18 ¹⁶ With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Psalm 78:6,7 ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

In summary:

Grandparents have goal to transmit 2 truths – what God has done and who God is

- Grandparents can use life lessons and tell stories to intentionally magnify the nature and person of God in the hearts of their grandchildren
- Grandparents are to remind the younger generation who God is and what He has done using their own life experience

C. Continued Faithfulness in Old Age

1. God gives commands without an expiration date

Genesis 2:15 ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Proverbs 6:6-11 ⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. ⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

- What is the expiration date on this command?

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 ¹ "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

2. God considers old age a blessing

Proverbs 17:6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

Psalms 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Job 12:12 Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.

3. Old Age brings with it a Stewardship of Fruitfulness

Old age – increased potential to contribute to God and others (page 27)

Continued fruitfulness in old age

Psalms 92:12-15 ¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God ¹⁴ They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, ¹⁵ to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

(page 41 date palm trees produce fruit well past 150 years)

Psalm 103:17-18 ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Deuteronomy 4:40 Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

Do you desire to encourage your grandchildren toward righteousness? What is your plan?

D. Influence at Church

Church – older believers train younger

Titus 2:1-8 ¹ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

E. Honoring Older People

(page 33) Honoring is demonstrated by a choice to meet the needs of older people, listening to their advice, and by recognizing their worth.

Honor parents and grandparents

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

1 Timothy 5:1 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Alternative to honor is to dishonor

Remember the story of King Rehoboam

1 Kings 12:6-15 ⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” ⁷ And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.” ⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with

him and stood before him. ⁹ And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?” ¹⁰ And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. ¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’” ¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” ¹³ And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, ¹⁴ he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Leviticus 20:9 For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.

Exodus 21:15 “Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Proverbs 28:24 Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, “That is no transgression,” is a companion to a man who destroys.

F. Leaving an Inheritance

Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

{4 approaches to finances page 30}

Proverbs 19:14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

G. Consequences of Failure to Follow God’s Plan for Grandparenting (page 35)

2 Kings 17:41 So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

Exodus 34:6-7 ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Exodus 20:5-6 ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Greater degree of depravity
Judges 2

Psalm 78
II Kings 17

(page 79)

Psalm 21:10 You will destroy their descendants from the earth, and their offspring from among the children of man.

Psalm 109:13 May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation!

Psalm 37:28 For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

III. Negative Aspects of Getting Old

God is realistic about aging

- calls us to be faithful

Psalm 90:9-10 ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

2 Samuel 19:34-35 ³⁴ But Barzillai said to the king, “How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? ³⁵ I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?”

1 Kings 1:1 Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm.

1 Kings 14:4 ⁴ Jeroboam’s wife did so. She arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age.

1 Kings 15:23 Now the rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, and all that he did, and the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in his old age he was diseased in his feet.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 ¹ Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴ and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵ they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶ before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Isaiah 46:4 ⁴ even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

Psalms 73:26 ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

How can you apply?