



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

July 6th, 2022

“The Eighth Song of Ascent”

Psalm 127

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 127

TITLE. —*A Song of Degrees for Solomon.* It was meet that the builder of the holy house should be remembered by the pilgrims to its sacred shrine. The title probably indicates that David wrote it for his wise son, in whom he so greatly rejoiced, and whose name Jedidiah, or "beloved of the Lord," is introduced into the second verse. The spirit of his name, "Solomon, or peaceable," breathes through the whole of this most charming song. If Solomon himself was the author, it comes fitly from him who reared the house of the Lord. Observe how in each of these songs the heart is fixed upon Jehovah only. Read the first verses of these Psalms, from Psalm cxx. to the present song, and they run thus: "I cried unto the Lord," "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills," "Let us go unto the house of the Lord," "Unto thee will I lift up mine eyes," "If it had not been the Lord," "They that trust in the Lord," "When the Lord turned again the captivity." The Lord and the Lord alone is thus lauded at each step of these songs of the ascents. O for a life whose every halting-place shall suggest a new song unto the Lord!

SUBJECT. —God's blessing on his people as their one great necessity and privilege is here spoken of. We are here taught that builders of houses and cities, systems and fortunes, empires and churches all labour in vain without the Lord; but under the divine favour they enjoy perfect rest. Sons, who are in the Hebrew called "builders," are set forth as building up families under the same divine blessing, to the great honour and happiness of their parents. It is THE BUILDER'S PSALM. "Every house is builded by some man, but he that built all things is God," and unto God be praise.

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)
VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION
[emphasis in original]

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 127

REFLECTION. Although the Lord Jesus was very God upon earth, as sinless Man it would have been a sin for Him to attempt any work of ministry apart from intimate fellowship with His heavenly Father (v1; John 5:30). Jesus never rose up early nor stayed up late to labor anxiously and fretfully, but instead rose early to commune with the Father, stayed up late to pray to the Father, and enjoyed peaceful rest from the Father in the midst of storms (v2; Mark 1:35; Matt 14:23; Matt 8:24). By His eternal gospel, “*all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,*” to be His heritage upon the earth (v3; John 1:12), to be His arrows while He was away (v4; John 13:33), and to be an unshamed blessing to Him until He returns (v5; John 21:5; Rom 1:16; 1 Jn 3:1-2).

APPLICATION. While it is the LORD who builds the house and must protect the city, His building and watching does not keep us from laboring diligently (v1); yet, the trusting faith we have in Christ Jesus to build and protect eliminates the evil, villainous idolatry of fret and anxiety to labor long hours, not resting in the Lord (v2). While Christ is the Builder of His church, the children of His church are His heritage (v3); and every generation in Christ blesses Jesus and confounds Satan by our individual salvations (vv4-5).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 127

REFLECT upon Christ Jesus as Builder and Protector of His church (v1). Since we are not to neglect building or keeping watch upon our own souls, how can we “labor” in Christ’s “house” and keep watch as members of Christ’s church? Consider verse 2. Why would fret, worry, and anxiety in our activities be considered wicked idolatry in Christ’s kingdom?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7. How do these verses help you to understand what the psalmist exhorts in Psalm 127:1-2? How are they similar? How do they differ?

RESPOND this week in two different ways:

Youth: From vv1-2, how have you been a co-builder and co-watchmen with Jesus this week for the glory of His kingdom? From vv3-5, how has your being a child of Christ allowed you to be a blessing to Christ?

Adults: From vv1-2, consider today’s American church in the post-modern era. What news items have you viewed this week which violate this biblical truth? How have they shamed Christ’s gospel? From vv3-5, though you are adults, how does the truth that you are a child in Christ’s kingdom encourage you as His heritage, His arrow, His blessing, and one who exalts Christ as more than a conqueror over Satan through Christ? Explain.

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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