

INTRODUCTION

- A. THE PSALMS OF ASCENTS** (120-134; *geographical, spiritual*; perh. architectural, literary, vocal; 2Chr8:13; Ps24:3; Hb12:22f)
- B. OF SOLOMON** (title; see *house, city; beloved* (2Sam.12:25); proverbs; note: *Jesus, Son of David*)

POINT: TWOFOLD (negative & positive)

- A. SKILL & DILIGENCE ALONE WILL NOT SUCCEED** (1,2)
- B. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE BLESSING OF GOD** (3-5; Prov.10:22)

I. STRUCTURE

- A. LABORS IN HOUSE, CITY; FAMILY** (2 in 1a,b,3f; see Ex.20:9; Prov.6:6f; Eph.4:28; 1Th.4:11)
- B. FRUITLESSNESS vs. FRUITFULNESS** (1,2 vs.5; contrast Eccl.1:2,etc.)
- C. WITHOUT GOD vs. WITH GOD** (1,2 vs. 3; see Mk.10:27)

II. MEANING

- A. SUCCESS IS GOD'S GIFT** (2d with 1-2c; 3a&b; see Mk.4:27; 1Cor.3:6,7; Col.2:19)
- B. EVEN GOOD CHILDREN ARE GOD'S GIFT** (3-5; see Gen.30:2; Ps.113:9)
- C. MAN'S WORK CANNOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS** (1a,b; see Gen.11:1f; Lk.12:16; Jms.4:13)
- D. EVEN LONG HOURS, HARD WORK & SEVERE AUSTERITY CANNOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS** (2; see Eccl. 2:18f)

III. APPLICATION TO US IN CHRIST (see Eph.2:11f,18; Rom.11:17f)

- A. WORK DILIGENTLY & TEMPERATELY, USING EVERY MEANS APPOINTED BY GOD** (1f; see Prov.6:6f; Eph.4:28; 1Th.4:11; see Ex.20:9; Ps.104:23; Mt.6:25-34)
- B. PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON YOUR FAITHFULNESS** (1f; see Ps.90:17; Mk.4:27; 1Cor.3:6,7)
- C. GIVE THANKS AND ENJOY WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU** (2; Eccl.2:24-26; 1Tm.4:4,5)
- D. BE HUMBLERED IN SUCCESS: IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU** (1f; see 1Cor.4:6,7)
- E. BE HOPEFUL IN FAILURE: IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU** (2d; see Eph.2:5f; Ps.42:5,11; 43:5)
- F. BLESSINGS OF BELIEVERS IN THE SLEEP OF DEATH** (2d; see 1Cor.15:51; Phil.1:23; 2Cor.5:7,8; Heb.12:23; LC 86)
- G. THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN IN YOUTH & OLD AGE** (4,5; see Gen.37:3; 44:20)
- H. CHURCH, STATE & FAMILY: EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE BLESSING OF GOD** (1f; note: *An Gottes Segen ist alles gelegen*)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)