

Date: 7-13-2022-Wednesday night.

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: Psalm 128

Title: "How to have a Blessed life"

Pastor Josh Montgomery

Introduction:

Degrees comes from a root word that means "ascents" or to "go up, as ascending stairs.

There are 15 of these Psalms in order.

Within the context of this Psalm the theme is that of the "Blessed life"

The word Blessed has many different definitions throughout the scriptures:

The literal definition means "Happy, Happy"

It also means "to enjoy spiritual happiness"

We find God blessing in various areas in one's life throughout this Psalm.

1. God has blessed this man's Field. Vs 2

"For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee."

This verse teaches us that God believes in:

A. Work.

"the labour of thine hands"

God believes in work!

Genesis 2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Before the fall of man, God still wanted man to labor and know something about work. The curse was that man would "sweat" and that thorns and thistles would fill the ground.

God is not for laziness and slothfulness.

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

II Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

B. Wealth.

"For thou shalt eat of the labour of thine hands"

We note in this verse that God wants the man to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee

power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

God has no problem with someone having wealth, just as long as they do not trust in their riches and worship their wealth.

If God has blessed you with wealth, make sure that you give God the glory and honoring him with your giving.

II Corinthians 8:6-7 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

C. Wellness.

“happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee”

I understand the statement that “God is more concerned with your Holiness, than he is with your Happiness” and I agree with the thought of this statement.

But to say that God is not concerned with our happiness is an incorrect statement because he speaks of the happiness of the people of God throughout his word.

I believe that if you are Holy, you will be Happy!

Psalms 144:15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

Psalms 146:5 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

2. God has blessed this man's Family. Vs 3

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants ground about thy table.”

God loves the family so much that he gave his son a bride and he calls us his children!

A. We note his Companion.

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house:”

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

Proverbs 19:14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

B. We note his Children.

“thy children like olive plants round about thy table.”

As we learn in Psalm 127 that children are a blessing and a gift from God!

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The little phrase: “provoke not your children to wrath” means that we are to be a positive and spiritual influence on their life.

Don't be the cause of your children going into sin!

C. We note his Castle.

“**thine house**”

God has blessed this man with a house, a home, a place for he and his family to dwell!

3. God has blessed this man's Future. Vs 5-6

“**The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.**”

A. His Blessing is a result of the Church.

“**The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion:**”

Zion is the Spiritual term for Jerusalem, which to me indicates that his blessing comes from the place where the Temple of the LORD was located.

Thus, I would like to draw out the application that all the blessings in my life come from the local Church!

B. His Blessings are seen in his City.

“**and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.**”

To the Jews this is a reminder to the Jews that God is going to be good to the nation of Israel even while they are hated by the world and attacked by the Anti-christ.

Things will get bad, but the end will be good for the nation of Israel!

C. His Blessings will Continue.

“**and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.**”

God was good to him yesterday, God is good to him today and God will be good to him tomorrow!

4. God has blessed this man because he Fears the LORD. Vs 1,4

Vs 1 Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

Vs 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

The reason that many people in our churches are not enjoying “spiritual happiness” or that “Blessed life” is because they are not Fearing the LORD.

“When the term is applied to the people of God, “the fear of the Lord” is never slavish fear. It is reverent awe that draws out the heart in wonder, love, and praise. People look for happiness, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but they never find it. They must follow the bend of the rainbow until they reach its highest arch, and then look up.” -Dr. John Phillips

Spurgeon said of this text: **“The Fear of God is the corner-stone of all blessedness”** (Treasury of David)

When they are not enjoying spiritual happiness, they have to go to fleshly and worldly pleasures to satisfy this void that could be filled, if they would only Fear the LORD.

“The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.”- Oswald Chambers

“When men no longer fear God, they transgress His laws without hesitation. The fear of consequences is no deterrent when the fear of God is gone.”- AW Tozer

“He who fears God has nothing else to fear.”-Charles Spurgeon

We fear men so much, because we fear God so little.- William Gurnall

I want us to note 3 things about this man that Fears God.

End of Introduction:

I. It is a **Personal** Fear. Vs 1

“Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord;”

1. The **Command** to Fear the LORD.

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Solomon thought he could find happiness in:

- **Thought**- So he gave himself to wisdom and accumulated knowledge, but that did not make Solomon happy.
- **Thrills**- So he dedicated himself to pleasure. He tried everything money could buy or mind could conceive, yet none of it made him happy.
- **Things**- So he went in for making money. He became a merchant prince, with agents trading in the markets of the world for new and exotic things. Solomon was so successful that even the pots and pans in the palace were made of gold. And that did not make him happy either. -John Phillips

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

This is how Solomon started his life but as we know he strayed away only to come back to this truth in the last days of his life.

2. The **Consummation** of Fearing the LORD.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

If we desire knowledge, wisdom and understanding then we must fear the LORD!

3. The **Consolation** of Fearing the LORD.

Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 15:16 **Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.**

Psalms 147:11 **The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.**

Proverbs 10:27 **The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.**

4. The **Consequences** of not Fearing the LORD.

Proverbs 1:28-29 **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:**

Luke 23:39-40 **And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?**

II. It is a Proper Fear. Vs 1

Vs 1 **“that feareth the Lord;”**

Vs 4 **“that feareth the Lord.:**

Our God deserves to be revered and deserves to be feared!

1. Because of his **Person.**
2. Because of his **Position.**
3. Because of his **Power.**

III. It is a Practiced Fear. Vs 1

“that walketh in his ways.”

Many claim that they “fear the LORD” but their “walk” does not match their “talk”.

“It is idle talk of fearing the Lord if we act like those who have no care whether there be a God or no”- Charles Spurgeon (Treasury of David)

1. There must be a **Denial.**

“his ways”

It is important that we note within the text that we are to walk in “his ways” not “our ways”.

2. There must be a **Direction.**

“his ways”

The word “ways” refers to direction, path or manner.

3. There must be a **Devotion.**

“that walketh in his ways.”

The word “Walketh” is in the continual sense which means we need to make a daily and conscious decision that we are going to walk in the ways of the LORD.

