

Evening Sermon Outline – November 28, 2021

“God’s Blessings, Including Grand-Children” Psalm 128

A Song of Ascents. “Joy in the Journey...”

I. Blessed, the word means truly and eternally happy

– ¹ Blessed ... Psalm 128

1. Every once in a while, I see a quote saying something like,
“God is more concerned with our holiness than our happiness.”

If there is any truth in such quotations, which I think is possible, I believe it is out weighed by the LIE that is implied in the phrase – ‘holiness and happiness are somehow opposites or fighting with each other!’ I believe we can have both! I believe holiness and happiness walk hand-in-hand with each other!

2. True and eternal happiness, blessedness can be connected with sorrow, mourning –

⁴ **Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.** Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)

3. Yet, my point is that the Christian Life, even with self-sacrifice, is happy, even NOW, not just when we get to Heaven –

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11

II. True blessedness comes through fearing the LORD, walking in His ways –

¹ **Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways.** Psalm 128:1 (NKJV)

According to Psalm 128, the fear of the LORD, is not only the beginning of wisdom and knowledge – Psalm 111:10 & Proverbs 1:7 – but also the beginning of blessedness / happiness – Fear of the LORD is the one secret ingredient that works for everyone who has it -

Fear of God has two aspects:

1. Reverence – honoring God as you would / should a father –
⁶ “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’
⁷ “You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’
⁸ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?”
Says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 1:6–8 (NKJV)

A. This reverence (honoring / glorifying God) should be applied to everything we do -

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

B. For myself as a pastor, this should / would include preaching –
“preaching deserves the highest excellence because it remains God’s chief instrument of reaching a lost world.” John A. Broadus

2. Real FEAR –

⁴ “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:4–5 (NKJV)

3. Fearing the LORD goes hand and hand with walking in His ways –

... who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. Psalm 128:1 (NKJV)

A. It is obedience to God’s and Christ’s commands that leads to true joy –

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:9–11 (NKJV)

B. *We abide in God's and Christ's LOVE by keeping their commandments ...* **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love ... John 15:10 A**

C. *The reason Jesus has for urging our obedience is JOY –*
¹¹ **“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11 (NKJV)**

III. *Count your blessings –*

1. *You will be blessed in your labor / work –*
When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:2 (NKJV)

A. *Since Adam's fall labor has been cursed with hardship, sweat and pains –*

“... not till we have slain the dragons of selfishness and sloth can we obtain any of the golden successes of life.”

Hugh Macmillan

B. *Yet labor, though hard, is still blessed –*

**“Labor, the symbol of man's punishment;
Labor, the secret of man's happiness.”**

James Montgomery

2. *You will be blessed in your relationships / family –*
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. Psalm 128:3 (NKJV)

A. *A fruitful wife -*

B. *Children –*

Thy children like olive plants,” etc. Follow me into the grove, and I will show you what may have suggested the comparison. Here we have hit upon a beautiful illustration. This aged and decayed tree is surrounded, as you see, by several young and thrifty shoots, which spring from the root of the venerable parent. They seem to uphold, protect, and embrace it, we may even fancy that they now bear that load of fruit which would otherwise be demanded of the feeble parent. Thus do good and affectionate children gather round the

table of the righteous. Each contributes something to the common wealth and welfare of the whole—a beautiful sight, with which may God refresh the eyes of every friend of mine.—*W. M. Thomson.*

3. *You will be blessed with spiritual blessing, with God and in assembly with His people -*

⁴ **Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. ⁵ The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. Psalm 128:4-5 (NKJV)**

A. *Zion, and Jerusalem – the places where God dwells with His people –*

B. *No longer just one place –*

¹⁹ **The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:19-24 (NKJV)**

C. *We are blessed with spiritual / eternal blessings, a long life and beyond, even eternal LIFE –*

² **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:2-4 (NKJV)**

4. *You will be blessed with grandchildren –*

⁶ **Yes, may you see your children's children. Psalm 128:5 A (NKJV)**

5. *You will be blessed with peace -*

Peace be upon Israel! Psalm 128:5 B (NKJV) Numbers 6:24-26

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