



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

July 20th, 2022

“The Ninth Song of Ascent”

Psalm 128

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 128

TITLE. —*A Song of Degrees.* There is an evident ascent from the last psalm: that did but hint at the way in which a house may be built up, but this draws a picture of that house built, and adorned with domestic bliss through the Lord's own benediction. There is clearly an advance in age, for here we go beyond children to children's children; and also a progress in happiness, for children which in the last psalm were arrows are here olive plants, and instead of speaking "with the enemies in the gate" we close with "peace upon Israel." Thus we rise step by step, and sing as we ascend.

SUBJECT. —It is a family hymn, —a song for a marriage, or a birth, or for any day in which a happy household has met to praise the Lord. Like all the songs of degrees, it has an eye to Zion and Jerusalem, which are both expressly mentioned, and it closes like Psalms cxxv., cxxx., and cxxxi. with an allusion to Israel. It is a short psalm, but exceedingly full and suggestive. Its poetry is of the highest order. Perhaps in no country can it be better understood than in our own, for we above all nations delight to sing of "Home, sweet home."

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

[*emphasis in original*]

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 128

REFLECTION. There is no one who ever feared the LORD, or revered the heavenly Father, like the Lord Jesus (v1a; Phil 2:8), for no one ever walked in the ways of God perfectly except Jesus (v1b; John 8:29). Though Jesus suffered the disdain and conspiracy of religious legalists, though He was misunderstood by His own disciples, though He was betrayed by His friend,

though He was beaten cruelly and suffered torments beyond human comprehension, the Lord Christ was blessed beyond all men and ate the fruit of His labors before anyone else could enjoy them (v2; Psa 45:7; Heb 1:9). Christ's beloved bride, His church, is a fruitful vine within His house (v3a; Eph 5:28-29); and Christ's children (v3b; John 1:12) are offshoots of the true Olive Tree, Christ Jesus, supping around His table in the fear of the LORD (v3c; Psa 23:5). Thus, Christ Jesus is blessed above all because of His fulfillment of the foreshadowed gospel family of God (v4; Eph 5:21-6:4). The Lord Jesus was blessed from heavenly Zion to do the Father's will (v5a; John 6:38); and because He is eternal God, He sees His beloved Jerusalem in its eternal, gospel prosperity (v5b; Rev 21:2). Christ Jesus will one day see all His children's children (v6a; 1 Jn 3:1-2), for the only peace that may be upon Israel is believing that the Prince of peace was led away with evildoers to be crucified on Calvary's Tree (v6b; Rom 5:1). Hallelujah! What a Savior!

APPLICATION. Everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways, is blessed (v1). This is a statement of fact from Jehovah God. Mr. Spurgeon expresses it like this: "This is true of every one of the God-fearing, of all conditions, in all ages: each one and every one is blessed. *Their blessedness may not always be seen by carnal reason, but it is always a fact*, for God himself declares that it is so; and we know that those whom he blesses are blessed indeed." [*emphasis added*]

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 128

REFLECT upon what it means to fear the LORD. What is the difference between the fearing the LORD and fearing men or fearing worldly situations and circumstances?

READ PROVERBS 9:10 & PHILIPPIANS 2:12 and consider why it is so important to possess godly fear.

RESPOND this week by considering Pastor Jon's first statement from the "Reflection" section of our Devotional Thoughts: "There is no one who ever feared the Lord, or revered the heavenly Father, like the Lord Jesus." While this truth of godly fear can be somewhat confusing to our finite minds, God has given us the very best way to understand the fear of the LORD— look upon the Lord Jesus' life as recorded in the Gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. On the back of this handout, write down references that help you understand godly fear through the birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus. In what way did these references help you to understand the fear of the LORD? How can you apply what you've learned for your life to help you behave more like Jesus?

Considering the Fear of the LORD:

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