

## God's Plan for Parenthood

Psalm 127

God gave Solomon a special gift of wisdom, an ability to express truth in 'capsule form.' It is on display in Psalm 127. This psalm gives wise counsel on family life. In a culture that spurns God, and views children as 'alien-parasites,' it's time for a biblical course-correction!

- Unless the Lord Builds the House... (1-2)
  - *The vanity of life independent of the Lord*
  - *The success of life dependent on the Lord*
- The Incredible Blessing of Children (3-5)
  - *Children are a gift of the Lord*
  - *Children protect and preserve the family*

### God's plan for parenthood...

- 1) Let dependence on God begin in your home
- 2) Don't pursue the empty goals of wealth or position
- 3) Invest in your children, and reap blessing in time



1. The opening half-line of v1 reads literally, "If the Lord does not build a house..." The idea here, of course, is not the construction of a physical house, but a family heritage. What is involved in the Lord 'building a family'? How do parents 'partner' with the Lord to develop their heritage? What does 'guarding the city' refer to in the context of a family (v.1b)? Verse 2 talks of rising early, going to bed late, and basically 'working oneself to the bone'! What does all this effort amount to without a dependence on the Lord?
2. Three times in vv1-2 Solomon says it is "vain" to do something. The Hebrew word for "vain" refers to activity that is of no value, futile, to no good purpose, coming to nothing, worthless, false, and even deceitful. Think of all the effort people put in to making a life for themselves, while taking little or no time to have a relationship with the Lord. Why are all our human efforts "vain"?
3. When it says that God 'gives to His beloved even in his sleep' (v2), it doesn't mean that you don't have to work! This is contrasting the difference between independence from God (*doing it on your own*) and dependence on God (*confidence in God's care*). The former is 'frantic activity' and constant anxiety; the latter is faith and trust in the Lord. What are some ways to experience this calm trust in life? For Jesus' input on this, read Matthew 6.25-34.
4. In recent days, a godless understanding of the value of children has been on display in America. Not only do many celebrate the killing of (unborn) children, they denigrate stay-at-home mothers who give their lives to raise them! Contrast this with the value reflected in the words "gift" and "reward" (v3). How valuable were 'arrows in the hand of a warrior' (v4) in the historical context of this psalm?
5. Children can sometimes seem to be more of a "handful" than a "quiverful" (v5)! How can having God's perspective on the value of children help parents as they face the challenges of family life? Have you ever considered that the fruit of godly parenting may not be seen in this life?