

GOD'S MAN // PSALM 123

Father's Day message

Main Idea: Psalm 128 unlocks the secret to a happy life.

1. The conditions of God's blessing (v. 1) The Hebrew word for blessed could also be translated as "happy"—a happiness that comes from God alone to those who rightly worship him. There are two conditions for this blessing:

- a. An internal reverence—"those who fear the Lord." This does not refer to being afraid of God, but rather taking God seriously, approaching him with a right reverence—that is, with prayer, praise, and piety.
- b. An external obedience—"who walks in his ways." Living close and clean, being faithful to the Bible and to God are marks of external obedience. Again, we are not motivated because we are afraid of God; rather, we are afraid of missing out on God's best for our lives. We cannot live in sin and live happy, but in pursuing holiness, we will have happiness.

2. The circles of blessing (v. 2-4) God's blessing on our lives will splash onto that which is closest to us, namely two specific circles:

- a. hands—our work will not be in vain, but it will be victorious. If God is upstream of your life, things will work out in the downstream of your life. Are you trusting God with your work schedule?
- b. home—a man's family will be blessed through God's blessing of him.
 - i. His wife: the man's wife is called a fruitful vine. There are three implications of her fruitfulness:
 - A. Fruitful in bearing children (although this will not be true in all circumstances)
 - B. A life of life-giving service
 - C. A life filled with the fruit of the Spirit
 - ii. His children: they will be like olive shoots. As men spiritually lead their families, children will grow strong.

The table in this verse is synonymous with the home. When God begins to bless a man, he begins to bless the circles closest to him. God may be wanting to bless you and your family by putting you at the dinner table.

3. The calls for God's blessing (v. 5-6) These verses become a benediction with the psalmist acting as a worship leader. There are two calls here:

- a. a call for great spiritual growth
- b. a call for long physical life

The call is for the Lord to bless "from Zion." Zion has spiritual significance because it is not just a place but a metaphor for God's throne, as well as earthly significance as the site of the temple in Jerusalem. Further, Christ is seen as being set upon God's holy hill of Zion (Psalm 2:6), so this is also a call to be blessed in Christ.

Are you living "paycheck to paycheck" spiritually? Take Psalm 128 to heart. Trust God, and he will equip you to work well and lead well and your family will benefit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why must an internal reverence and an external obedience come together?
2. How have you seen God's blessing splash onto your closest circles?
3. What does it look like to live "paycheck to paycheck" spiritually? How does Psalm 128 provide the antidote to this way of life?