

LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN

Scripture: Psalms 127:15

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. No one knows for sure whom God used to write this short Psalm.
 - 1. The heading reads “for” Solomon, not “of” as others.
 - 2. It could have been “from” Solomon as some think.
 - 3. Then Hezekiah could have been the writer as some think.
- B. The first two verses could well fit Hezekiah's feelings during the time when Jerusalem was under seige, but what about the last three verses ... how could these fit into his life?
- C. Maybe this could be the answer. Hezekiah became very upset when Isaiah came with God's message that he was about to die.
 - 1. Why? Was he afraid to die?
 - 2. No! It was because he had no children ... no son to sit upon the throne.
 - 3. God gave him fifteen more years. He married and left a twelve year old heir, Manasseh, to sit upon the throne.
- D. Vanity is the key word which is used three times and implied a fourth time.
 - 1. Vanity means "empty" ... void of results ... to no purpose.
 - 2. Vanity implies "false good."
 - 3. That which soon vanishes away ... like vapor.
 - 4. It implies either absolute or relative absence of value
 - 5. Vanity also means "proud" ... Puffed up with one's own importance.
- E. Let us note some practical lessons from this short Psalm.

I. LEARN THAT WE SHOULD CREDIT GOD WITH THE BUILDING OF A HOUSE.

- A. The Bible uses house to refer to at least three things.
 - 1. A physical building that houses anything ... a church, a family, a business, or a spiritual person.
 - 2. It is also used to refer to a family of people, or a local church, or a human body with its mind.
- B. How foolish it is to boast of what this human body looks like or what it can do. Such is vanity, empty proud talk. I Cor. 4:7
- C. How fruitless it is to build a family without God. No matter the size ... no matter the worldly accomplishments, it comes up empty and is vanity.
- D. How vain and how useless it is to build up a church WHEN God's way and Word are bypassed with methods and emotions.
- E. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it ... whatever kind of house it is.

II. LEARN THAT GOD SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS OUR CIVIC PROTECTOR. v. 1

- A. This does not mean that we should not prepare for defense ... the defense of self ... of home ... of country ... or church.
- B. In too many other places God's Word teaches preparedness in all areas of life. We are to be a people who exercise wisdom in preparation.
- C. This does mean that we recognize and admit that without God's presence and His intervention all our efforts would be expended in vain.
- D. It also means that when God grants us victory, we should honor Him through thanking Him for the victory.

III. LEARN THAT HUMAN EFFORT WITHOUT GOD'S BLESSINGS IS FRUITLESS. v.2

- A. This was written when the world revolved around an agricultural society.
 - 1. No person should understand this better than a farmer or stockman.
 - 2. Rise early and sit up late ... work yourself half to death to produce a crop ... AND if God is not in it you fail ... all is vain or empty.
 - 3. Recognize God as your partner ... the One who determines the rewards for your labor AND God will give you rest.

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B. This is also true in any business.

IV. LEARN THAT RECOGNIZING GOD AS THE GIVER OF CHILDREN IS THE BASIS FOR A SUCCESSFUL HOME. vs. 3-5

A. v.3 Children are a heritage of the Lord ... The fruit of the womb is His reward.

B. Children are God's designated helpers in time of need and in old age. They are like arrows to a hunter.

C. Children are our happiness.

1. There may be some grief and hurt mixed with happiness.

2. But none the less they are our happiness.

3. Our children are those who shall sit in the gate ... carry on with our work ... when we are gone.