

## SummerInThePsalms #13 – Except the Lord Psalm 127

Intro: Psalm 127 -

The 9<sup>th</sup> “Song of degrees”

Literally – “A Song of “Ascents”

Written to be sung as the people went up to Jerusalem for the feasts

In each, with each step taken the Psalmist turns the attention of the singer heavenward.

- Each of the Psalms of Ascents directs the participants to “**The LORD**”.
- **Each reveals and reminds of something we find in Him; something we need over and over through the journey of life on our road to heaven.**

The Composer:

KJV – “**for Solomon**”

Literally: “**A song of ascents. Of Solomon**” – Either **by or for...**

This was written either by David, for Solomon, or by Solomon.

It has an echo of Solomon’s writing. Solomon wrote an entire book, Ecclesiastes, which spoke of “vanity of vanity; all is vanity”...

It was included in the sacred collection later by Hezekiah.

It was meant – **for us!**

Every step we take, God works to turn our attention to Him.

- From.... Fill in the blank with whatever distraction fits the moment
- TO Him!

**Just as these pilgrims were reminded with each step, Jesus reminded His disciples the night before the cross...”without me ye can do nothing.” – John 15:5**

Finally, as we read it’s almost like two different compositions...

Vs. 1-2 - Except the Lord...

Vs. 3 – Lo, children...

Our children, the future, is what we keep in mind as we live our present... What we do now, each and every day, affects our children, those who follow. In the future, when our choices have borne fruit and we are privileged to see the blessings, we will be glad! Blessed!

Today, we focus on the lesson of the first two verses, "Except the Lord..."

## **I. The Proclamation.** *"Except the LORD"*

What is the big deal? Why start with, **"The LORD?"**

### **It is fundamental question of humanity:**

- **Eden** – Satan tempted, the choice was presented, decisions made, and damage was done. The ripple effects rip through the hearts of history and besieges us today, will we trust and obey the living God, or choose another?
- **The 10 Commandments**, written with the finger of God, begin:
  - "I am the LORD thy God... Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:2-3. It starts there!
- The New Testament simply affirms and simplifies the very same truth: **Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment**. His answer –  
*"Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and might...  
And the second, Love thy neighbor as thyself..."*  
**Paul – on this the whole law hinges! This is the core issue!!**

### **The core battle within each heart is, "Who is OUR GOD?"**

**Simply, life itself starts with Him.**

- **Creation.** *"All things were made by Him..."* John 1:2

A few verses later...

- **Salvation.** *"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name".* John 1:12; Then John 3:16

### **Every aspect of life is sustained by Him.**

Peter revealed what we intuitively know – *“the heavens and the earth... by the same word are kept in store...”* 2 Peter 3:7

### **Every step of life is to be taken with Him!**

- Jesus promised, *“I will never leave you nor forsake you”*
- Paul gave us insight as to what that really means – *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure”* Philippians 2:13
- To the philosophers and intellectuals at Mars Hill in Athens, Paul declared, *“in him we live, and move, and have our being”*

### **Every aspect of life is then infused, affected, by Him!**

#### **Imagine, leavening Him out!**

**Imagine, forging ahead into the unknown without Him! Let to our wisdom and resources**

**The Psalmist leads them to consider that the unthinkable is an ever-present possibility!**

## **II. The Peril:**

### **A. The Sad Story of Solomon**

- **It started out a story book tale...**
  - An incredible foundation.
  - A blessed position.
  - A Divine provision: “Wisdom”
  - The stories of God’s glory and Solomon’s greatness were told to the ends of the earth.
- Then... **his heart turned from his God, who had been so good, to....**
  - He was **lifted up with pride**, and God, at least in his heart, was dethroned...
  - **Everything the world offered he tried...**
  - **Every whisper of happiness he followed...**

- **It ended where it always ends.**

Solomon wrote, twice – in Proverbs 14 and 16:25 – ***When God says something once, we should listen. When He repeats it word-for-word, we should never forget it.***

***“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.”***

**Ecclesiastes – the autobiography of the inevitable result** – records the emptiness. The disappointment. The “vanity”.

**As he nears the end of the road his choices have taken him, Solomon is no longer wise and blessed, but empty and miserable. (He is a bitter old prune of a man.)**

The book ends with a word to young people – Chapter 12-  
***“Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth...”***

#### **B. Our Psalm, our Song:**

***“they labour in vain”, waketh in vain”, “It is vain”***

**Our Psalm was written so we would be reminded, with every step, with every breath, of the peril of trying to live life without the giver of life!**

### **III. The Particular Admonitions:**

***Except the Lord...***

**\*\* C.S. Lewis: *“All that is not eternal is eternally out of date.”***

**A. “*Build the house*”** – Production: Life. Family. Church.

- **House – N.T. – Our body; Our family; Our church**
- **We are building, but how?! cf. Matthew 7:24-29**

**B. “*keep the city*” – Protection (Trust vs. fear!)**

**Psa 20:7 – *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”***

Locks? Guns? Alarms?

Physical might?

Mental agility and ability? Think our way to security?

Money? Institutions?  
Armies? Might? Government?

**Corrie Ten Boom: “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”**

**C. “for you to...rise early, stay late...” – Personal reliance and effort; ceaseless striving without... PEACE.**

**Augustine: “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”**

So... What do we do? Why this for us today?

1. If you don't know Him,  
You are lost. Empty. Alone.  
Every breath you are in peril, and every breath you take is one last opportunity!

The giver of life gave His life because He loves you and wants you to live!  
Trust Him today. Now! And begin the journey to the place He has prepared for those who know Him, every step taken with Him until you do...

2. Children of God,
  - With every step, turn your eyes upon Jesus!
  - Recognize the peril, and if we have turned from Him to \_\_\_\_\_, turn back. Repent. Now.
  - Let Him into every thought, every action, every moment – and see the life He brings to every part of our lives!  
After all, “Christ in you is the hope of glory!”  
In everything. Every step. Every day!