

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

BIBLE STUDY – “Building House and Home”

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 127:1-2 NIV

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

² In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.

I. Key Words:

- A. Vanity – excessive pride and admiration of oneself.
- B. Worry – to allow one’s mind to be consumed by or with difficulties.

II. People, Places & Times:

- A. Solomon – the author of this Psalm
- B. Jerusalem – the Holy city

III. Background:

- The circumstances described in this psalm, both the external and internal threats to the line of David, suited the psalmist’s situation.
- With Sennacherib and his host threatening the demise of the promised land and the King’s princely line, Hezekiah needed a word from God.
- He found it in this word out of the past.
- This 127th Psalm spoke to his need, as the voice of God to his soul.
- He divides this Psalm into two parts:
- The psalmist underlines three things that are in vain or useless when it comes to building family life.
- As an old man, Solomon wrote a whole book on the subject of vanity, the book of Ecclesiastes.
- The Psalmist had become increasingly convinced that a life that left God out was a life lived in vain.
- In today’s text the Psalmist tells us often times we are working.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis #1: Working in Vain (127:1a)

- A. Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.
- B. The Holy Spirit gives us some idea of the enormous amount of treasure David had accumulated in his forty-year reign and dedicated for the building of this house for the Lord.
- C. When Solomon received his charge from David, David first showed him the plans; "All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern or plan."
- D. Like the tabernacle before it, the temple was to be built to divine speculations.
- E. Yet Solomon, young, full of zeal, devoted to the task, was able to say:
- F. "If the Lord build not the house, they labor in vain that build it."
- G. This truth applies to us as much as to Solomon.
- H. It applies to every family, local Church and assembly, to every effort made down here to build God's house, that great habitation of God through the Spirit.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: Watching in Vain (127:1b)

- A. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman wake them but in vain.
- B. The people in Jerusalem believed their city, sheltered by mountains and hills to be virtually invincible.
- C. Jerusalem's real defense was in God.
- D. However, when the armies of Assyria deployed before Jerusalem's walls, the city was up against a new kind of enemy, a world superpower well versed in storming the highest battlements and breaching the strongest walls.
- E. The Assyrians were experts at sacking cities.
- F. The thorough way they went about preparing to take Jerusalem must have caused the bravest hearts to tremble.
- G. War was hazardous business at best.
- H. Nobody knew better than Hezekiah that it was really the Lord who kept the city.
- I. If the Lord abandoned the city, of what use would watchmen be?
- J. The principle remains unchanged.

- K. The Bible is banned from classrooms and the soul-destroying humanism and evolutionary philosophy are so entrenched that God as Creator is denied a hearing in the schools.
- L. The higher halls of learning are frequently in the hands of humanists.
- M. The vile sins of Sodom are allowed to parade themselves unblushing and unashamed.
- N. Drunkenness and dishonesty haunt the corridors of power.
- O. The will to resist aggression is being sapped.
- P. Drugs are destroying the nation all the way from grammar school to the most esteemed professions.
- Q. Racism is at an all-time high.
- R. Gun laws continue to be untapped and restricted.
- S. Our homes and communities are becoming factories that produce terrorists.
- T. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen wake them but in vain.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: Worry in Vain (127:2)

- In vain you rise early, and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to[a] those he loves.
- Many of us are anxious about many things.
- Solomon points out three things about worrying.
 - A. It is an Exacting thing
 - It is vain for you to rise up early and sit up late.
 - That does not help matters.
 - If a developing situation is beyond our control, it is beyond our control.
 - Yet somehow worry comes in and compounds the problem by attacking and harassing us.
 - B. It is an Excruciating thing:
 - It is vain, to eat the bread of sorrows.
 - A person in the grip of anxiety is a person in torment.
 - Worrying has a way of preying on the mind and driving the victim to distraction.
 - C. It is Exhausting
 - For so he gives them His beloved sleep.
 - The solution is the Lord.
 - All worry does is wear us out until our nerves are frayed, our tempers short, and our health gives way.

- Our worry is in vain.
- When we have worried ourselves sick, we have not changed the situation at all; it is still there.
- All we have done is decrease our ability to cope with it.
- The text, however, goes far beyond the passive, to the positive.
- It is not merely that "He giveth His beloved sleep," Rather it is "He giveth to His beloved in sleep."
- Often in sleep the answer comes to our problem.
- We go to sleep committing the whole matter to Him: we awaken knowing just what we have to do and perhaps with some indication of what God intends to do.

V. Make it happen:

1. How does one work in vain?

2. Who's keeping you, your home, your family, and your city?

3. What causes you to worry in vain?

4. What is the difference between houses and homes?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

- What will you do as a result of this lesson?
