

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Blessed Life

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
August 20, 2023



John 10:10 (AMP) "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."

What is this blessed life and how do we find it?

Psalm 128 (ESV) *A Song of Ascents.*

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!

² You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

⁵ The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

⁶ May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

- **God will bless those who revere & obey Him.**

¹ "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!"

Whenever you take a "short cut" from God's path you are choosing the longest distance towards blessing.

"If you go against the grain of the universe, you get splinters." H.H. Farmer

- **God will bless your family.**

³ "Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table."

- **God will bless your city.**

^{5b} "May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!"

Matthew 5:13-16 (MSG) "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

As Sequoia Church we long to see thousands of people live out the Kingdom of Jesus together, wherever we live, work, play, and go.

- **God will bless your legacy.**

⁶ "May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!"

- **God's blessing flows from His saving work.**

⁵ "The Lord bless you from Zion!"

Psalm 14:7 (NLT) "Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue Israel? When the Lord restores his people, Jacob will shout with joy, and Israel will rejoice."

Romans 11:26-27 (NIV) "...and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

Big Idea: Revere the Lord & walk in His ways & you will be blessed!

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), the English Standard Version (ESV), the Amplified Bible (AMP) and The Message (MSG).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Blessed Life
#8 of 11 - August 20, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 127 and centring our life on God's plans. What did you learn and apply this week in regard to this?

- 2) Read Psalm 128. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?

- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?

- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we seek to live the Blessed Life?

- 5) Discuss the the following statements: "Whenever you take a "short cut" from God's path you are choosing the longest distance towards blessing." & "If you go against the grain of the universe, you get splinters." In what ways have you seen this to be true in your life?

- 6) How is the Blessed Life a gift of God's saving work? Read Romans 11:26-27.

- 7) What implications do you see for us as we seek to revere God and walk in His ways?

- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through Psalm 128? In what ways do you need to revere God and walk in His ways?



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