

PSALM 128 – WISELY LIVING FOR YOUR FAMILY!

Read the Psalm.

Translation Notes:

הַמַּעֲלֹת - stair, step, temple porch = ascent

יְגִיעַ כַּפַּיךָ - labor/toil/product + palm or hollow of hand = fruit of the labor of your hands

בָּנִים לְבָנֶיךָ - children's children

Psalm 128 Notes:

Song of Ascents – Psalms 120-134 – literally “The Songs of Goings up”. These psalms are viewed in a couple different ways. The 15 psalms are some times believed to be connected to the 15 steps in the temple. The Levites would sing the songs as they walked up into the house of God. Others believe these psalms were sung as people “pilgrimaged” up to Jerusalem for the high feasts. There is also a theory that connects these psalms to being sung by the exiled Israelites who went back to rebuild the temple after exile. To this day, the Hebrew term for moving to Israel is still “going up”.

Some commentaries view verses 1-4 as God’s promise to us and verses 5-6 as a prayer back to God.

Theme – Wisely Lively For Your Family!

Who is blessed? Have we seen this before?

What are the promised blessings?

Who else besides you will be blessed because of your faithfulness?

Why does this psalm focus only on the man?

How does verse 4 make God’s promise cyclical?

Do you agree verses 5-6 serve better as a prayer?

Why is this one of the ascent psalms?

Where else do we see this in the Bible:

Exodus 20:5-6

Proverbs 22:6

Colossians 3:18-21

Psalms 112

Ephesians 6:1-4

2 Timothy 1:5

Real Life Application

Would you say you are a living example of someone who fears the Lord for your family?

In what ways have you instilled your faith in your family, especially your children?

Have you seen the blessings received from living out your faith with your family?

Do any of you have struggles with your children who you raised in the faith and they have since walked away?

How does being faithful with your family impact more than just your family?

In what areas do you struggle the most in living out your “fear of the Lord” with your family?

What is one thing you can do this week to wisely live faithfully for your family?

PSALM 133 – WISELY LIVING AS A COMMUNITY!

Read the Psalm.

Translational Notes:

כִּשְׂמֵן הַטֹּב - fat/oil; pleasant/agreeable/good = precious

פִּי - mouth, opening = collar

Psalm 133 Notes:

Another Psalm of Ascent.

This psalm celebrates the true unity and fellowship of God's people.

Anointing with oil was a symbol of joyful celebration and rich blessing from God.

Theme – Wisely Living as a Community!

Does it make God happy when His people live in unity?

Why does the psalmist use these two examples for brothers living in unity?

What is granted when the commands His blessing?

Where else do we see this in the Bible:

Matthew 18:20

Ephesians 4:1-6

1 Corinthians 12:27

1 Peter 3:8

Real Life Application

Why do you think it is good and pleasant according to God when His people dwell in unity?

How does this work with all of the divisions within the Christian church?

Should we compromise truth for unity?

In what ways do you struggle to dwell with fellow brothers in Christ?

Why do you think that is?

What do you think is the biggest temptation in this area?

What is one thing you can do this week to wisely live faithfully with your community?