

Sunday July 23rd, 2017

150 FOR CANADA'S 150TH FINDING SIGNIFICANCE IN RELATIONSHIPS - PART 1

Psalm 127 and 128 –

127 - Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.² It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

³ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

128 - Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! ² You shall eat the fruit of the labor 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

These are Psalms of ASCENT - sung as God's people made their way to Jerusalem for Passover.

I BUILDER - is GOD

Jesus may have had Psalm 127 in mind when He used the picture of the 2 foundations – Rock and Sand – in the Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 7:24-27

A. Why do we need the Lord to build the house?

1. Relationships can become a BATTLEGROUND

2. STRESSORS come into all relationships.

The Bible is a story of FAMILY, but consider what came into the relationships:

* SIBLING rivalry (e.g.) Jacob and Esau

* FAVOURITISM

B. When God, the solid Builder, is at the centre of relationships, the result is **BLESSING**

II **BE-ATTITUDES** for meaningful, significant relationships.

1. **WALK** in God's ways – Psalm 128:1

* Ephesians 5-6:4

2. God's **WISDOM** - Psalm 128 presents the picture of a stable family relationship where God and His wisdom build the house. This is NOT the picture of many families in 2017.

* Children are over-stimulated – “We don't want the kids to be bored.”

“We have learned, and are teaching the next generation, to live in a constant state of stress.” Pastor Marek Kowalsky

III Our **WORK** and **WITNESS**

This week let's all cast a bigger vision for our families, our church family, our relationships.

1. **IDENTIFY** the stressors in your family / relationships and for God's wisdom regarding what to do about those stressors. – James 1:5

2. **INITIATE** hospitality

Model the Biblical value of hospitality – Romans 12:13 / Hebrews 13:2 / I Peter 4:9

3. **KEEP** going with our Summer Reading Challenge – 150 for Canada's 150th

4. **EXPRESS** genuine thanks to God for those in your family or extended family.