

“UNLESS
THE LORD...”

Psalm 127:1-5

By Pastor Benny Ho

Psalm 127:1-5

Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labour 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.

Psalm 127:3-5

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.

⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. **Unless the Lord** watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

TO BE SELF-
SUFFICIENT SEEMS
EMPOWERING,
BUT IT IS AN
ILLUSION.

3 KEY TRUTHS

1. The Vanity Of Self-Reliance

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. **Unless the Lord** watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

James Dobson -

"I have concluded that the accumulation of wealth, even if I could achieve it, is an insufficient reason for living. When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backwards on something more meaningful than the pursuit of homes and land and machines and stocks and bonds.

James Dobson -

Nor is fame of any lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people or an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense."

“UNLESS THE LORD
WATCHES OVER THE
CITY...”, THERE IS NO
REAL SECURITY.

LESSON:

The Chinese people were so busy building the wall that they forgot to teach their children **integrity**.

Psalm 127:2a

In vain you rise early and
stay up late, toiling for
food to eat...

THE PSALMIST CALLS THIS
SELF-RELIANT STRIVING
“VAIN” OR “EMPTY,
HOLLOW, WORTHLESS OR
USELESS” BECAUSE GOD
IS NOT IN IT!

3 KEY TRUTHS

1. The Vanity Of Self-Reliance
2. The Gift of Restedness

Psalm 127:2b

...for He grants **sleep** to
those He loves.

Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter
of the Most-High will **rest** in
the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is
my refuge and my fortress,
my God, **in whom I trust.**"

GOD WILL PROVIDE!
WE MUST RECEIVE!

WE **RECEIVE**
HIS GRACIOUS
GIFT OF **REST!**

3 KEY TRUTHS

1. The Vanity Of Self-Reliance
2. The Gift of Restedness
3. The Grace of Receiving

Psalm 127:3

Children are a **heritage**
from the Lord, offspring a
reward from Him.

SOLOMON DECLARED
THAT OUR CHILDREN
ARE FUNDAMENTALLY A
“HERITAGE” OR AN
“INHERITANCE” AND A
“REWARD” BESTOWED
BY GOD.

Psalm 127:1a

Unless the Lord builds the
house, the builders labour
in vain...

Psalm 127:4

Like arrows in the hands
of a warrior are children
born in one's youth...

Psalm 127:1b

Unless the Lord watches
over the city, the guards
stand watch in vain...

Psalm 127:5

Blessed is the man whose
quiver is full of them. They
will not be put to shame
when they contend with
their opponents in court.

LIKE EVERY OTHER
PROVISION OF GOD,
OUR CHILDREN ARE
NOT **GOALS** TO
ACHIEVE, BUT **GIFTS**
TO RECEIVE.

3 KEY TRUTHS

1. The Vanity Of Self-Reliance
2. The Gift of Restedness
3. The Grace of Receiving

William Ernest Henley: "Invictus"

"Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole.
I thank whatever gods may be,
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeoning of chance,
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears,
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years,
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul."

James 4:13-15

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

"In Christ alone,
I place my trust
And find my glory
in the power of the Cross
In every victory,
let it be said of me
My source of strength,
my source of hope
Is Christ alone."

“UNLESS THE LORD...”
IS NOT A CALL TO
PASSIVITY.

IT IS A CALL TO A
PARTNERSHIP.

“WE MUTTER, WE SPUTTER,
WE FUME AND WE SPURT.
WE MUMBLE, WE GRUMBLE,
OUR FEELINGS GET HURT.
WE CAN’T UNDERSTAND THINGS,
OUR VISION GROWS DIM.
WHEN ALL WE NEED
IS A MOMENT WITH HIM.”