

Here are my notes from the message that I preached Sunday evening, Feb. 15, 2015. I had hoped that whole church would have been able to be there, especially the young couples in our church. I hope you will read this, and that it will help you.

Psalm 127:1-5
Text: Vs 1

CHRIST AND YOUR HOME!

In 1861 American diplomat, John Howard Payne died. His diplomatic career has long been forgotten; the plays he wrote are obsolete; but one of his poems, "Home Sweet Home," has remained immortal: for he made vocal the song that every man desires to sing in his heart.

It is important to remember at this point that the whole idea and plan of "HOME" is a divine one; it is not surprising, therefore, that the Bible has much to say about this institution.

I want to look at Psalm 127 and notice the principles that prevail in a genuine Christian HOME. It is true that the Psalm employs the language of the O. T., but the underlying message is eternally abiding.

What is the secret of a Happy and Holy Christian HOME? This Psalm gives us a fourfold answer about: Christ And Your Home!

I. A DIVINELY FOUNDED HOME!

Fundamental to every HOME is the necessity of a partnership with the true Author of marriage, God! Those choosing to ignore this truth may build a relatively happy HOME, but it is at great risk, with almost certain failure.

A. GOD MUST AUTHORIZE MARRIAGE!

Vs 1 Except the Lord build the house.

When Jesus was asked for an authoritative statement on the question of marriage, He pointed His questioners at once to the very first marriage.

In Genesis 2:18 we read that it was God who saw that it was "not good that the man should be alone," and therefore prepared "a help meet [fit, suitable] for him".

God knew from the beginning that marriage was a necessity; both for the CONSUMMATION OF HUMAN LOVE and the CREATION OF HUMAN LIFE therefore He authorized HOLY MATRIMONY.

II) On some products you will find this label: 'For best results follow the instructions of the manufacturer.' For best results in marriage, the home and rearing children, follow the instructions of the One who performed the first wedding in the Garden of Eden.

B. GOD MUST SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE!

Vs 1 they labor in vain that build it

Referring again to the beginning, in Genesis 2:22 we read: "The Lord...made a woman and brought her unto the man". And commenting on this, Jesus said in Matt 19:6, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

The HARMONY of the COMMUNITY is dependent upon the UNITY of the HOMES within it, and a HOME can be united only when it is founded by God.

II. A DIVINELY FENDED HOME! Vs 1b

Even the wakeful watchmen on the walls of our cities have not prevented the evils that have threatened the home through time. God is the only effective protector of the HOME.

Psm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

The "angel" of that verse is none other than the Christ of the N T, and the secret of a guarded HOME is the all PERVADING and PREVAILING presence of the Lord. He can maintain SPIRITUAL LIBERTY, MARITAL PURITY and PARENTAL AUTHORITY; only when He is Lord of the HOME.

The Bible is clear; the presence of Christ is Radiated throughout a HOME by:

A. BY THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER!

Writing to married couples, Peter warns in I Pet 3:7, "...husbands give honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel...that your prayers be not hindered."

Peter's primary goal is to emphasize the husband-wife relationship, but he also makes clear the place that Prayer must have in the marriage.

When husband and wife are out of fellowship prayers are hindered and Satan takes advantage to spoil the Harmony and Sanctity of the HOME.

B. BY THE READING OF THE BIBLE!

II Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:.

The Bible should be read Individually. It should be read Jointly by husband and wife, and it should also be read Corporately by a family unit. If you want a happy HOME you cannot afford to neglect the daily and devoted reading of the Bible.

C. BY THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT!

In the book of Ephesians, Paul exhorts his readers to be "filled with the Spirit" – Eph 5:15, and once again he is addressing not only the church, but HOMES and families.

Where there is no Holy Spirit there is no charity. By "charity" we mean the husband's LOVING CONSIDERATION for the wife, the wife's LOVING SUBMISSION to the husband, the parents' LOVING DEVOTION to the children, and the children's LOVING OBEDIENCE to the parents. Only then can true "charity" prevail in the HOME.

The SANCTIFYING, STABILIZING and SWEETENING Presence of Christ can be known only through the PRACTICE OF PRAYER, the READING OF THE BIBLE, and the FILLING OF THE SPIRIT!

III. A DIVINELY FURNISHED HOME! Vs 2

The furnishings of a HOME that really matter are not those things that are acquired through never-ending toil. Rather, they are the blessings of God to those who rest secure in His will.

A. WEALTH CANNOT BUY THE HOLY ENCHANTMENT OF THE HOME!

Someone has said that there are two kinds of magic, that of Heaven and that of Hell. How true this can be of the HOME! Is your HOME a Heavenly or a Hellish?

If it is a Heaven then it is a sanctuary from the chaotic outside world; it is a harbor from the storms of life. But if your HOME has become a place of strife, pain, and suffering it can rightly be called a Hell.

B. WEALTH CANNOT BUY THE HAPPY CONTENTMENT OF THE HOME!

Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all... 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

[A truly happy HOME does not have to depend on material comforts for true contentment.](#)

He who turned the WATER OF SADNESS into the WINE OF GLADNESS at the Marriage in Cana is the One who continues to affect contentment and commitment in the Christian HOME.

This is precisely why a believing husband and wife can say; whatever the circumstances "all things work together for good to them that love God," - Rom8:28.

C. WEALTH CANNOT BUY THE HEALTHY REFRESHMENT OF THE HOME! Vs 2 He giveth his beloved sleep.

To sleep in the will of God is to know something of the spiritual, mental and physical REFRESHMENT that the Lord Jesus can bring into a HOME.

A Christian HOME should be Heaven begun on earth. It is a family which thinks, works, rejoices and sorrows together; whose personalities are all melted by divine grace, uniting them in love.

There would be fewer aching hearts if there were more Christian HOMES.

When you try to make your house a HOME, think of Jesus. He raised three persons from the dead. One was an Only Son; another, an Only Daughter; the third, an Only Brother. Whenever He entered a HOME He brought with Him peace and radiant life.

Make sure that Jesus is the sacred presence of your HOME.

IV. A DIVINELY FAVORED HOME! Vs 3-5

God's greatest favor upon any HOME is:

A. THE DESIRABILITY OF PARENTHOOD! Vs 3

Whether or not this desirability ever finds full realization does not alter the divine fact that God's purpose in married life is to favor the HOME with the gift of children.

From the verses before us we see that children are sent to reward the HOME, for "the fruit of the womb is his reward." The word Reward means payment of contract, salary, benefit, wages, worth.

What is more rewarding in HOME than the Sunshine of little faces, the Patter of little feet, the Laughter of little mouths, the Music of little voices, the Pressure of little fingers, or the Love of little hearts?

B. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD! Vs 4

It is significant that arrows are likened to children. The flight, direction and effect of an "arrow" depend on the way that "arrow" is Produced, Polished, Pointed and Poised!

The tragedy is that so many arrows leave our HOMES today dipped in poison and often never pointed in the proper direction. Having money and fine things, are not as important as having a Christ-pleasing HOME!

Con: The essence of a true Christian HOME is a family living together with God. In John 2, the couple being married decided that Jesus must be invited to the wedding. His presence Graced, Gladdened and Glorified The Marriage and the HOME.

Have you invited Jesus into your married life? Has He His rightful place as Savior and Lord in your HOME? Remember, a HOME in which Jesus is rightly honored is "Heaven On Earth". Only then will you know the secret of a "HAPPY HOME!"

I believe that we would all be wise and like Joshua say, "...if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served ...or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" – Joshua 24:15.