

- I. Introduction
 - A. Psalm 127 is the eighth of the “ascent Psalms” and is called by Spurgeon “The Builders Psalm.” What is the connection of worship to this Psalm? I believe the theme of the Psalm gives us the answer. When we come to understand that God is sovereign over all things, the giver of all good things which include our homes, families, work, and the protector of everything we do, our hearts cannot but be drawn to Him and overwhelmed with thankfulness, humility, and total reliance on our Sovereign Lord! (Ecc 3:14-15, 8:12-13, 12:13-14) Worship causes us to “fear the LORD.”
 - B. This is a wisdom Psalm written by King Solomon. It was written during the grandest time of Israel’s history when the nation enjoyed the blessings of Jehovah in unprecedented wealth, fame, peace, influence, knowledge, and envy of the entire world! (I Kings 10:1-9,23-24)
 - C. We will use an outline that Lawson suggests: The builder of the home, (v1a) the protector of the home, (v1b) the provider of the home, (v2) and the rewarder of the home (v3-5)
- II. The Builder of the Home (v1a)
 - A. Unless the LORD builds the house. This is obviously not a reference to the LORD literally using hammer and nails to build a house but is a metaphor for God being the architect, builder, and foundation of every home. (Lawson) He further said, “it is a foolish plan of man to attempt to do something outside of God’s sovereignty. Such anarchy against God is utterly insane and foolish.”
 1. Marriage is between a man and a woman in a covenant relationship. (Gen 1:26-28, 2:24; Eph 5:22-33)
 2. Parents should teach their children what is in their hearts from God’s word! (Dt 6:4-9; Eph 6:1-4)
 3. Jesus, as MacArthur suggests, could be using this Psalm in His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt 7:24-28)
 4. Notable verses on build and builder. (1 Cor 3:9-17; Eph 2:19-22; Col 2:6-7; Heb 3:1-6, 11:8-10; I Pet 2:4-8; Ps 147:1-6; Prv 9:1,14:1-2)
 - B. They labor in vain! The labor and sweat of our brows will be useless, falseness, vanity, resulting in emptiness and futility without God! Three times in verses one and two, God says it is vain to do anything without His instruction and blessing! (Ecc 1:10-11; 5:7,7:13-14)
- III. The Protector of the Home (v1b)
 - A. God is the watchman, guard, keeper, observer of, and the securer of our collective towns, villages, or cities! Lawson summarizes that “the invisible hand guards the very homes that he builds from the evil influences that would harm those who live within.” Safety is the implication of this verse! (Ps 119:117; 18:1-3; Prv 18:10, 29:25)
 - B. Our protection for ourselves is limited! We stay awake in vain. Can we name ways in which we cannot safeguard ourselves?
- IV. The Provider of the Home (v2)
 - A. We are called to work! This verse in no way contradicts the totality of the scripture that commands and requires work. Although work is difficult, and at times unrewarding because of the consequences of the fall, it is beneficial and good for our souls! (Proverbs 6:6-11, 10:4,5,26, 13:4, 15:19, 19:24, 22:13, 24:30, 26:13-16; II Thess 3:10-15)
 - B. This verse is telling us that striving hard, without God in center of one’s life is wrong! Lawson states, “he is warning against being a person who burns the candle at both ends, neglecting one’s family, and failing to trust God. Without time for God, their food only maintains people in their miserable existence.”
 - C. He gives His beloved sleep. This symbolically represents the rest and peace God gives to those in full commitment to Him! This speaks of tranquility, contentment to those who in humility, depend on the Lord! It is the opposite of those who love things and spend their time and talents to “protecting” those things that they have acquired! (I Tim 6:6-11; Luke 12:15-21; Ecc 2:18-23, 5:10-12)
- V. The Rewarder of the Home (v3-5)
 - A. Children are a heritage and reward. This is the covenantal language of God towards Abraham. (Gen 13:16, 15:5) The Jewish family was considered “cursed” and not having the favor of God if they were barren and unable to have children. Each child is a divine gift, a reward, which is an expression of divine favor. Lawson continues, “children are a highly valued price, not a burden. They are the expression of God’s goodness upon one’s life, bringing immense pleasure to a home, a demonstration of His love and mercy.”
 - B. They are arrows in the hand of a warrior. This personification of arrows equates children with success in battle. Children are invaluable as defenders of their father and mother; they speak for us against litigation! (v5) From Lawson’s commentary, like arrows:
 1. Children must be shaped. Arrows, in these ancient days, did not come perfectly contoured from a factory. They had to be taken from a branch and “whittled and shaped” into a well-fashioned arrow. So, we as parents, must train and nurture our children in the nurture of the LORD! This included Biblical instruction, discipline, correction, and loving affirmation.
 2. Children must be directed. There is an old adage which says, “aim at nothing and you will hit it every time.” Lawson explains, “children, while in their parent’s hands, must be pointed at God’s enemies, armed with the gospel of Christ, if they are to score a direct hit.”
 3. Children must be released.