

We live in a world saturated with information; we have more information accessible to us through a quick Google search than those who lived a 100yrs ago could've amassed in a lifetime. And yet, smart people make stupid decisions all the time, and it seems like we're more and more confused about how to live life well. What we need more than information is wisdom.



Psalm 128

The Bible is filled with wisdom (a number of books are called wisdom literature), from our loving Creator about how to live rightly in his world. Psalm 128 is part of this wider category of wisdom and is known as a 'wisdom Psalm'. It opens with the claim that the Blessed are those who fear the Lord (v1, 4), which reminds us of Prov 1:7: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. The idea of fear here is not being terrified of God but of having a reverential awe and respect of him- he is the Holy Loving Creator and we are his creation. Those who know the Lord for who he is and live accordingly, that is align their lives according to his will; walk in his ways, are blessed. We tend to think being blessed is doing whatever you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want, but the Bible has a very different picture- blessing comes through obedience. It makes sense right, if we listen to the Creator's plan for how to live in his world, then by and large our lives will be better than if we don't. The picture the Psalmist paints of the blessed life is one overflowing with prosperity in work (v2), a deep seated wellness within you (v2), multiple children (v3), all signs in the Old Testament of a blessed and righteous life. All of this blessing, this fullness of life comes from the loving hand of the Lord (v5).

Remember this was a Psalm sung as the pilgrims went up to Jerusalem, it was to remind them that living God's way was well and truly worth it. It also reminded them that God's blessing was bigger than just them as individuals, it was tied to his city (v5) and his people Israel (v6).

The reality is no matter how hard we try, we always fail to perfectly fear and obey the Lord. The good news is Jesus is the one who has truly and completely feared and obeyed the Lord for us, so that we can be assured of the far greater and eternal blessing of the New Creation that Psalm 128 was pointing towards.

To Ponder:

Why is it hard for us to believe God's ways are wise?

To Pray:

Almighty Lord, you are the loving and Holy Creator of everything in this universe and we thank you that you reveal to us through your word the Bible, how we should walk/live wisely according to your ways. Father, thank you that you sent Jesus to be our perfect fearing and obedient one. Help us to live wisely because of what Jesus has done for us and look forward to the full blessing of your New Creation. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.