

**October 21, 2008**

**Psalm 128 (NASB)**

**How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
Who walks in His ways.**

**When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands,  
You will be happy and it will be well with you.**

**Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine**

**Within your house,**

**Your children like olive plants**

**Around your table.**

**Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed**

**Who fears the Lord.**

**The Lord bless you from Zion,**

**And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.**

**Indeed, may you see your children's children.**

**Peace be upon Israel!**

The blessing of heritage is a wonderful thing. As Christians living almost 2000 years since the crucifixion of Christ, we remain wonderfully connected to the wisdom and teaching of those people of faith who lived before us. I enjoy reading the New Testament writers and hearing the echoes of godly men like Moses, David, and Isaiah in their teachings. The inspired Christian writers were aware that they were part of something new that God had done for His people, but they were also aware of the knowledge of God that was contained in their Scripture—what we call the Old Testament. We are blessed to see the interconnectedness of Scripture. I'm frequently amazed by the way one passage seems to influence and instruct another.

In this psalm we hear echoes of Israel's wisdom teaching. Whether this unknown psalmist had a Proverbs scroll or not, we can't say with certainty. We can say, however, that this psalmist was undoubtedly familiar with the kind of wisdom which Proverbs contains. This psalm stands upon the conviction that God blesses those who fear and follow Him.

One of the biggest challenges for believers is having faith in this kind of wisdom and then struggling with life's penchant for unfairness and injustice. Sometime faithful people don't find blessings and comfort everywhere they look. So, what does that say about God? What does that say about this psalm? Are they dependable?

This psalm, like other pieces of wisdom literature in the Bible, offers a proverbial truth. At its core, it teaches that God offer His faithful people the blessings of contentedness and of hope for the future. But Scripture also tells us that a life of faith will often make us poor and persecuted. This may feel uneven, but it isn't a contradiction. It does, however, ask us to hold in tension the spiritual truths of Scripture with the transitory desires of life in the flesh. It calls us to be aware that every righteous blessing we experience comes from God. And it offers a blessing of hope and a longing for the people of God to remain His people throughout their lives. God's love for us is great, and His designs for us are beyond our comprehension. Whether we experience comfort now or only in the life to come, we should cling to the truth that God is the only one whose blessings can give us life and peace.

May our Lord bless you,  
Patrick Barber