

Remembering God's Benefits Produces Passionate Worshipers

Psalm 103

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I. A personal call to worship the Lord (103:1-19).

A. Praise the Lord with all your heart (v. 1)

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Worship is "our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself" **John MacArthur - *The Ultimate Priority*, p. 127**

B. Don't forget the Lord's benefits (v. 2)

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

1. Why are we prone to forget God's benefits?

- (1) Our tendency is to forget to give thanks to God (Romans 1:21).
- (2) Our tendency is to take God's blessings for granted (Deut. 6:10–12).
- (3) Our tendency is to attribute the blessings of God to other causes (Deut. 8:17–18).

2. How can we fight against forgetfulness?

- (1) Understand that worship is a spiritual discipline.
- (2) Practice God's ordinary means of grace.
 - Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:2; Col. 3:16-17)
 - Prayer (Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17)
 - Fellowship (Heb. 10:23-25)

C. Remember the Lord's saving acts and divine attributes (vv. 3- 19)

1. Remember His saving acts (vv. 3-5)

o He forgives (v. 3a)

"who forgives all your iniquity,"

Colossians 2:13–14

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

** Bless the Lord who forgives all our iniquity!*

o He heals (v. 3b)

"who heals all your diseases,"

1 Peter 2:24

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

** Bless the Lord who heals all our diseases!*

o He redeems (v. 4a)

"who redeems your life from the pit,"

Ephesians 2:4–5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

** Bless the Lord who redeems us from the pit!*

o He crowns (v. 4b)

"who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,"

1 Peter 2:9–10

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but

now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*** Bless the Lord who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy!**

o **He satisfies (v. 5)**

"who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

*** Bless the Lord who satisfies us with good!**

2. Remember His divine attributes (vv. 6-19)

o **He is just (vv. 6-7)**

6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

Psalms 9:7-10

7 But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, 8 and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness. 9 The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

*** Bless the Lord for He works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed!**

> God revealed Himself to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:6-7).

Exodus 34:6-7

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

o **He is merciful and gracious (v. 8a)**

8 God is merciful and gracious,

o **He is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (v. 8b)**

8b slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

> God's attributes are revealed in his acts (vv. 9-12):

- (v. 9) "He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever."

Psalms 30:4-5

4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

- (v. 10) "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."

Psalms 130:3-4

3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

- (v. 12) "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgression from us"

Micah 7:18-20

18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

*** Bless the Lord for He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!**

o **He is compassionate (vv. 13-16).**

13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. 15 *As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.*

> **How can fathers have the greatest influence on their family?**

Psalm 34:1-3

1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

> **Why do you and I strive to keep God at arm's length, especially after we've sinned?**

*** Bless the Lord for He is a compassionate father!**

o **He is sovereign (v. 19).**

19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Daniel 4:34b-35

34b for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

*** Bless the Lord for He has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.**

II. A universal call to worship the Lord (103:20-22).

20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

22 Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!