

The MATCHLESS GRACE OF GOD'S LOVE

PSALM 103



IT IS THE MOST PERFECT SONG OF
PURE PRAISE



MAX McLean - Psalm 103

- ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
- ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
- ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

- ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

- ¹³As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,
- ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

- ¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!
- ²¹Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!
- ²²Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

THE OUTLINE

VV. 1-5...Talking to *Myself*

VV. 6-14... History: God's dealings with His people

VV. 15-19... Man's life is short; God's Love is forever

VV. 20-22... All creation joins in praise

1. VERSES 1-5: TALKING TO MYSELF

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; ³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

What is the soul?

Genesis 2:7


*Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became*** a living being (soul)*

**From the Hebrew word “nephesh”
Includes identity, personality, memories -
it is the very essence of who I am**

Why am I emphasizing this point?

This is where praise is to originate and proceed from. It is not something superficial or trivial

The audience is our Holy God who is not to be trifled with



" The single most important activity of your life is to worship God. You were made for this - to offer your whole life, in all its parts, as a hymn of praise to the Lord"

(G. Campbell Morgan)

**FORGETFULNESS IS NOT JUST A
DISEASE OF THE ELDERLY**

Great Heart to Samuel, “Your father had that battle with Apollyon at a place yonder before us, in a narrow passage just beyond Forgetful Green. And, indeed, that place is the most dangerous place in all these parts. For, if at any time the pilgrims meet with any brunt (challenge), it is when they forget what favors they have received, and how unworthy they are of them

What do you think is the basic issue

PRIDE



2 Chron 32:25 says of Hezekiah, “He did not make return according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was proud.”

Dt. 8:12-14: “Otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them,¹³ and when your herds and yBride so engulfs you and you are in gold subtle multiply, and all that you have multiplied,¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

TO PONDER!

David is reminding himself and teaching us by the Holy Spirit to consistently remember every act of God

BECAUSE:

His memory, strength, courage, and endurance to face the future with all its uncertainties and difficulties

God is that same God to us and done, ability,

BENEFITS, VV. 3-5

1. FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES
2. HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES
3. REDEEMS YOU FROM THE PIT

PSALM 16:9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore

4. He crowns you with loving kindness and compassion

“HESED”

Theologian John Oswalt describes hesed as,
“Completely undeserved kindness and generosity”

5. He satisfies you with good so that youth is renewed
like the eagle's

All that is needed to be daily renewed to live the life you are called to, at whatever age, He is the source of your strength and vigor

The Hebrew term for gratitude is *hakarat ha'tov*, which literally translates to: “recognizing the good.” As we begin to “recognize the good” even in small ways, it will lead us to noticing the good in other areas of our lives. Gratitude affirms. It has a way of multiplying. As we profess gratitude, the more reasons we will find to be thankful

SUMMARY OF VV. 1-5:

CONSTANTLY REMIND MYSELF TO:

“Forget not all of His benefits,” which essentially tells me to live with constant gratitude toward the One who provides “ALL” I need for life and godliness

2. A Bit of History: God's Dealing With His People, VV. 6-14

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. ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (hesed). ⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

*¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who
fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
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.*

V. 8 David quotes EXODUS 34:6-7

*The LORD passed before him and proclaimed,
“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and
gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love” (hesed)*

MERCY

“All the world tastes of His sparing mercy; those who hear the gospel partake of His inviting mercy, the saints live by His saving mercy, are preserved by His upholding mercy, are cheered by His consoling mercy, and will enter heaven through His infinite and everlasting mercy.”

(Chas. Spurgeon)

God is Gracious

GRACE IS “AMAZING”

JOHN NEWTON

Where would we be without grace?

When the Scripture says God is slow to anger, what does it tell us?

Another Look at Hese

God loves us, and he will love us forever. He loves us infinitely, and he could not love us more than if we had never fallen (Chas. Spurgeon)

Where do we best understand God's hese?



His anger was satisfied in Christ Jesus
as He dealt with our sins, transgressions,
and iniquities

What is the great theological word for that?

PROPITIATION

(1 John 2:2)

The Totality of Fallen Man's Perverse Nature

Sin is “khata” - Missing the mark

Transgression is “peshha” - Betrayal...Rebellion - It violates the trust of others, it breaks relationships. This is the conscious, willful rebellion against God

Iniquity - “Avon” - to bend, twist, or
Distort - in biblical terms, making
crooked the word of God as Satan does.
It also carries the idea of consequences. It is
contained in the Hebrew word “to punish,”
i.e., to visit their “avon” upon them, to let
them stew in the consequences of their
crooked choices

When we understand the depth of our sin, does the promise that God does not deal with us according to our sins nor does He repay us according to our rebellion, nor our twisted, distorted choices, create in you any greater sense of gratitude and praise?

Further Astonishing Revelation

God's hesed is so great toward His people that it is as vast as the immeasurable distance between heaven and earth. He follows that extraordinary distance citing the non-existent distance between east and west.

V. 13 As a father shows compassion...
(pities- KJV)

"Pities (has compassion) is in the present tense, and carries the idea of continuity: at this very moment he is now pitying them that fear him. Though he knows your trials will work for your good, yet he pities you. Though he knows that there is sin in you, which, perhaps, may require this rough discipline ere you be sanctified, yet he pities you. Though he can hear the music of heaven, the songs and glees that will ultimately come of your present sighs and griefs, yet still he pities those groans and wails of yours." (Chas. Spurgeon)

What is the Gratitude Point ?

With gratitude we are to remember the benefits of God's great love. Our knowledge is not to be content with anything short of understanding how high, how wide, how deep, and how long it is -

Remembering also, it is beyond measuring and incomprehensible, so we are never to stop growing in that knowledge

He is an ever-flowing, never-ending fountain of forgiveness to those who in fear, with faith, seek Him for refuge and assurance

Would someone just say
AMEN ?

3. VV. 15-19: THE GREAT CONTRAST: Man's Life is Short; God's Love is Forever

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. ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Summary Gratitude Point:

Consider that we who fear Him and have the heart's desire to be obedient to Him, even in the darkest season of life, can praise God for the gift of salvation, the hope of eternal life, His great and unending love, and His promise to never abandon us or reject us

4. VV. 20-22: All Creation Joins in Praise

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.

WHO SHOULD PRAISE GOD?

And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19

FINAL THOUGHTS

David knew that God does not deal with us according to our sins, iniquities, and transgressions, but he did not know why

David knew that God knows our frame and that we are but dust, but he didn't know that the Son of God would take on human flesh and by experience suffer the temptations of the flesh and the weaknesses of our bodies

David pointed us to a Messiah but never experienced
the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit

We are called to bless the Lord, and this should be our
greatest joy

We are called to remember all the benefits of being
sons and daughters of the king of glory

SO THAT our praise and gratitude is always a sweet
aroma drifting up to bless our Awesome God