

PSALM 103

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits” -Psalm 103:2*

CHALLENGE

A common question about the God of the Bible is, “How can the God of the Old Testament be the same God as the God of the New Testament?” To the casual observer, God may appear duplicitous—harsh and judgmental in the Old Testament, and yet forgiving and loving in the New. However, a student of the Bible finds that God is not two-faced. Psalm 103 describes God as forgiving (vs. 3), merciful (vs. 4), helping the oppressed (vs. 6), immeasurable in His love (vs. 11), and the list goes on. This week, we have the opportunity to explore the greatness of God, and hopefully renew our confidence and love for Him.

QUESTIONS

Read Psalm 103:1-5

1. This Psalm begins and ends with the phrase, “Bless the Lord, O my soul.” For some believers, that language seems antiquated or unfamiliar. How does that phrase affect you?

Kind of confused – How does a sinner bless God?

You bet – I bless the Lord right out loud!

I don't feel that way today – It would be hypocritical for me to say that at this moment.

It's personal – In my prayer time, I bless God.

Other -

2. Which of the Lord's benefits (verse 2) that are listed in verses 3-5 mean the most to you? Why is that one near and dear to you? Explain.

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Please Read Psalm 103:6-18

3. Verses 7 & 8 refer to Moses' encounter with God in person. Refer back to Exodus 33:18 - 34:1-8.

Why do you think Moses pleaded with God to allow him to see Him? What did Moses witness on the mountain that is echoed in this psalm?

4. What is the measurement of God's steadfast love towards those who revere Him?

5. How do you experience God's love in your day-to-day life?

6. Who, more than any other person, have you received God's love through the most?

7. In 2019, how are others to know and experience God's limitless love?

8. How do you think God's love differs from what our culture would define as love? Explain in depth.

Please Read Psalm 103:19-22

9. Who is being commanded to "Bless the Lord" in these verses?

10. What do you think it means to obey "the voice of his word" (vs. 20)?

11. After discussing all of this we find ourselves back at the encouragement to "*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*" Has your understanding or appreciation of that phrase changed?

If so, how has it changed?