



Intro: Christmas is a time to **REMEMBER**. Our Christmas tree has ornaments that we have collected throughout the years. Each has a memory associated with it. Each ornament helps us to remember!

Psalm 103:1-3 “1 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 not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction”

Forget not = Heb. “al sakah” = don’t forget, ignore or cease to care”

REMEMBER...His Benefits

Benefit = Heb. “gmul” (ghem-ool) = dealings, recompense, that which He has given.”

What are some of the benefits, those things which God has given us this Christmas that we are supposed to remember?

1. Forgiveness
2. Healing
3. Redemption

Today I want to continue looking at Psalm 103 and remember a few more of His benefit

Vs.4 Lovingkindness - Crown Ornament

“...Who crowns you with lovingkindness...”

When the girls were young they liked to get dressed up like a princess. Bella’s outfit was never complete without a tiara...without a crown. Not to be undone her younger sister Constance eventually realized that there was something even better than being a princess. Why be princess when you can be queen! Her grandma gave her this ornament. A Crown...When she spends the night at Grandma and Grandpa’s house she is crowned with lovingkindness. She is pampered with unlimited pancakes and coffee. Her grandparents are zealous in their goodness! That’s the imagery we see in this scripture.

Heb= Crown = “atar” = to surround, encircle, to crown

Heb = Lovingkindness = “hesed” = goodness, faithfulness to a degree of zeal

Through Jesus we have been made royalty!

Revelation 1:6 “and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

The Father has brought us into his family, made us kings and zealously loves to bestow upon us his goodness and faithfulness.

Vs. 4 Tender mercies - (Scroll Ornament)

“...Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies”

God has not only crowned you and zealously poured out upon you his goodness. He has encompassed and preserved you with his tender mercy. That tender mercy is the Hebrew word...

Heb = “raham” = “womb, to cherish and preserve a fetus”

Isaiah 7:14 “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call his name Immanuel.” (God with us.)

20 years ago we experienced a Christmas and New Year that I’d prefer never to repeat. Judah was born on December 8th. On December 25 we celebrated his first Christmas and on New Years Eve we experienced his death. He contracted RSV and literally passed away. No heartbeat or breathing. He crashed three times and God brought him back to life three times.

It was there in the joy of his birth and in the sorrow of his sickness and the fear of his death that we experienced Immanuel. God with us. God was encompassing us, surrounding us, sustaining us, preserving us. That’s who Jesus is, Immanuel. He is with us at every moment of every day. Cherishing us. Sustaining us, Preserving us.

Vs. 5 Satisfies us with good things - Starbucks Coffee Ornament

“Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

God not only provides for our needs He gives us good things and revives us! I love my morning coffee time with Jesus. **When the fountain of living water saturates the fruit of the coffee tree that He gave Adam and Eve in the garden to be consumed it is a daily reminder that truly the Lord’s mercy is new every morning!**

John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.”

Conclusion:

What’s on your tree? Is your tree just a pretty decoration or does it call you to remember The Benefits of Jesus?

This morning we have a gift for you. An ornament for you! May it help you call to your remembrance all the Lord’s benefits to you this year. We invite you to pick one up and write on the back side at least 1 Benefit you are grateful for and want to remember this Christmas.