

Being Thankful for God's Mercies

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

Thanksgiving 2023 / Thanksgiving (Holiday) / Psalm 103:1–5; Psalm 105:1–3

So, shake off apathy and gloom with your mind as you remember that God's mercies cannot be prevented, cannot be exhausted, and will not fail, as your mind focuses on God's pardon, redemption, and restoration.

Notes

11/05 Psalm 103:1-5, "Being Thankful for God's Mercies," Subtitle: The Goodness of God, Scripture: Psalm 105:1-3

Psalms 73–150: An Introduction and Commentary (Psalm 103. So Great Is His Love)

Among the psalms attributed to David, Psalm 103 stands a little apart: it is less intensely personal than most of his; less harassed, if at all, by enemies or private guilt. The personal note is there, but David is soon speaking for us all. It is a hymn rather than a private thanksgiving, and we are reminded that David was the founder of the great choirs of Israel.

This Psalm David uses mind and memory to kindle his emotions. Our present culture seems driven by emotions. From politics to marketing, from health to leisure, both in our private and public decisions we are impacted by and find it impossible to ignore our emotions.

In this Psalm, David challenges Israel and all the readers of the Psalm to take up a challenge, not in the form of an imperative, but by following an example. David knows that emotions are the very things drive our temptations to sin and the very things that led humanity into sin in the first place, back in the Garden of Eden.

It is not that emotions themselves are bad, for God created us to

experience the beauty and wonder of emotions. It is just that God never intended that we allow our emotions to guide our decisions, but rather allow our decisions to guide our emotions.

If put in the wrong sequence, our decisions can be held hostage by whatever emotion we are experiencing at any given moment. However, if we allow our minds and memories to guide our decisions, in time our emotions will follow.

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David sets the stage for this by suggesting the need for his whole being to pull together in solidarity so that he might bring it all into subjection to one, single focus; which is to bless the LORD and His Holy name.

David is suggesting our ego, spirit, thoughts, motivations, ideas, desires, and feelings all be pulled together as one whole person to give praise (bless = full satisfaction) to the LORD and His name for His goodness and grace.

The Apostle Paul, when speaking of the weapons of our warfare not being carnal or physical, but spiritual, said it this way in the New Testament to the church of Corinth in 2 Cor. 10:5

2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB95

⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

In this Psalm, David's take is, "all that is within me." Simply put and

understood to be all that pulls together to make up my being, let it praise the LORD's holy name.

God's name is set apart for sacred use, not to be used lightly or flippantly. It is meant to be used with reverence. It's use should promote the moment's awareness of all that is within Him, all that when considered together, makes up the totality of His self-existence.

All this in the first verse of this strophe, before David pours the foundation upon which the mind's building will rest. That foundation will not be found to be our emotions, our apathy, or our gloom thrust upon us from this life in which we live and find ourselves responding to so often, but rather upon the corpus of the LORD's benefits (that which promotes well-being).

David then lists ...

3 Godly benefits of Thanksgiving:

God pardons sin and heals its affliction v. 3

Romans 10:10 NASB95

¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 John 1:9 NASB95

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God redeems you from death and directs His lovingkindness to you instead

v. 4

1 Peter 1:18–19 NASB95

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:30 NASB95

³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Ephesians 1:7 NASB95

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 1:20–22 NASB95

²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

God will give restoration (“satisfaction”)
to your desires through things that
renew you v. 5

Psalms 37:4 NASB95

⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Romans 12:2 NASB95

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalms 23:3 NASB95

³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His

name's sake.

Psalm 51:12 NASB95

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

1 Peter 5:10–11 NASB95

¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. ¹¹ To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 40:31 "31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

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