

Today we end the mini- series on the psalms of worship.  
My intention was that you would see worship as a privilege and responsibility as a believer in Jesus Christ.



It is not something to be passive about but it is the end goal of our relationship with Him.

Today we look at Psalm 103.

I call it "A Psalm Of Blessing.

David simply titled it "Bless The Lord."

**v.1** *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.*

This is the first mention of soul music.

*Bless the Lord O my soul...* It's in the Bible. God had it first, then Motown copied it.

**v.2** *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;*

The blessing of God is based on the benefits of God. But they cannot be forgotten.

"benefits" acts of good will, service

Here,

He "remembers" all the good things God has done for him.

"remember" let it sit in your mind.

**v.3** *Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;*

Pardoned sin is perhaps the brightest jewel that shines. When you wear it, you look radiant. And it is a gift of Grace.

That's what forgiveness does for us.

It is good to be mindful that your sins are forgiven.

**v.4** *Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;*

Spiritual death was like a pit and the Lord came down into that pit and brought us out.

The death sentence was pronounced but He came and took it from us and put it on Himself.

And not only that:

He crowned us with His lovingkindness and compassion.

Jesus didn't just deliver us, He exalted us! He healed our sickness of sin and restored our soul.

**v.5** *Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

There is a fulfillment that comes only from God.

**v.6** *The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed.*

We cannot just think about ourselves when it comes to God's great mercy and grace.

There are countless people who are afflicted and oppressed.

"oppressed" to press upon, drink up, deceive

Mercy is to the saints and vengeance to the persecutors!

There may not be justice with man but there is certainly justice with God.

**v.7** *He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.*

God revealed Himself to Moses more than any other people in Israel.

Why is that? Perhaps for the same reason He does that today.

It's the condition of the heart.

Num 12:3 *Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.*

"humble" teachable, non-reactive

Most people are reactive!

We need more who are non-reactive so we don't have to live in a human mine field.

Ps 25:9 a humble person is a good follower

*He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.*

Is 29:19 a humble person has joy

*The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

"afflicted" same word - humble

It's God's goodness that brings justice and judgment and He leads the humble.

**v.11** *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.*

**v.12** *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Love and forgiveness. This is what David is remembering. Not wrath, guilt and shame, but love and forgiveness.

v.11 God's lovingkindness is boundless. It stretches all the way to Heaven.

Or,

You could say it reaches all the way down from Heaven, and it touches you.

You, who wasn't even thinking about Him.

You who was only thinking about yourself and living only for yourself.

You who was bent on only pleasing yourself.

His love reached down and touched your heart. It was a light touch that affirmed you and drew you to Himself.

And He said, "Come to Me, you are weary and burdened with so many things. Walk with Me and I will give you rest for your soul."

And then,

He took your sins and cast them away as far as the East is from the West, never to be found again.

Yes,

Even that sin that embarrasses you, that secret sin, that regrettable sin. It's all gone.

As the Apostle said;

"Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound."

**v.13** *Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.*

"has compassion" pres. tense – always having compassion

How does a father have compassion on his children?

He would if he could, take their place in their affliction.

And that is what God did for us.

He sent Jesus to take our place in judgment.

Do you think you can stand before God with unforgiven sin?

Can you stand before Him with your good works? They are both the same to Him, of no value. The judgment is coming and only the saints will stand victorious.

You who think you are good enough can never be good enough without Jesus Christ.

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. II Cor 5:21*

Oh, is He good? Is He loving? Is He a perfect Father?

Finally;

**v.14** *For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.*

**v.15** *As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.*

Our stay here is short. We are planted, we bloom and then we fade away.

**v.16** *When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.*

**v.17** *But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,*

**v.18** *To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts to do them.*

Man is temporal but God is eternal!

As the Lord said to the man who wanted to build bigger barns to store his food,

“Tonight your soul is required of you and now, who will have your grain?”

Ie.

Are you living for a bubble, for a bloom, for a puff of smoke?

But,

God’s lovingkindness is forever to those who fear Him and keep His Word.

**v.19** Who is in charge anyway?

*The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.*

**v.20** *Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*

**v.21** *Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.*

**v.22** *Bless the LORD, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion; Bless the LORD, O my soul!*

All creation is called to worship God.