

BLESS THE LORD (Psalm 103)

I. The blessing of forgiveness (vs. 3a, 12-16).

- A. The very first thing for which the Psalmist said God should be blessed or praised is the forgiveness of our sins.
 - 1. Think of the many penitential Psalms.
 - 2. How often did David and the other writers of the Psalms seek the forgiveness of their sins?
- B. “Forgiveth” means pardon, and it is only used of God and carries the idea of God forgiving us for offending Him.
 - 1. Our sins are an offense to the nature of God.
 - 2. As Habakkuk said, God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity.
 - 3. However, because God loves us so deeply, He provided a means of forgiveness of our sins.
- C. Later in the psalm, David delves deeper into God’s forgiveness.
 - 1. God removes our sins as far as the east is from the west.
 - 2. God forgives and forgets our sins.
- D. He does this because He understands our frailties.
 - 1. God never expects perfection from us.
 - 2. He knows how weak we are and how frail our lives are.
 - 3. Notice that David described our lives as a piece of grass or a flower that is there for a day and the wind comes and it is gone.
 - 4. We understand life is fragile and God does as well.
 - 5. It is for this reason that God has great pity on us and offers us His forgiveness for the times we offend Him with our sins.

II. The blessing of His providential care (vs. 3b-6).

- A. God blesses us physically every day through His providence.
- B. He provided the blessings of health.
 - 1. This is why we take the time to pray for the sick.
 - 2. It is not a miraculous healing for which we pray, but that God’s providence would be with those who are sick.
 - 3. The Psalmist tells us God is involved in that.
- C. God shows His love to us daily by the things with which He provides us.
 - 1. David described God’s mercies and love as a crown.
 - 2. Those things stay with us and uphold us in difficult times.
- D. We know that all good things come from God, as James tells us.
 - 1. David points out those physical good things in verse 5.
 - 2. He also points out the good things in the form of care He gives to His people who mistreated.
 - 3. God will avenge His people.
 - 4. Sometimes we get to see it in this life but we know God will right all wrongs once this life is over.
- E. God blesses us each day providentially and we must ever be aware of that.

III. The blessing of revealing His will (vs 7).

- A. God made His ways known to Moses is how David describes it.
 - 1. Through Moses, the Israelites could know how to please God and do His will.
 - 2. By revealing Himself and His law to Moses, He showed how much He loved the Jews because He did not do that for any other group of people.
- B. Thankfully, God saw fit to open His arms to all people through His Son Jesus.
 - 1. He revealed His New Testament to man through the gift of His Son.
 - 2. Jesus took that Old Law and nailed it to the cross and brought in a new and better covenant.
- C. By doing so, God revealed His will for all mankind, not just a segment of it.
 - 1. All men are invited to learn of God and how to please Him.
 - 2. We learn of this through the New Testament.
 - 3. There does not have to be any doubt as to how to please God.
- D. Just think if God had not revealed His will to us.
 - 1. He could have just looked down and said these people are too sinful, too wretched for me to save.
 - 2. Thankfully, He inspired men through the Holy Spirit to write down His will for us.
- E. We should thank God every day for the New Testament that tells us how to draw close to Him and worship Him properly.

IV. The blessing of His mercy (vs. 8-11).

- A. God has great compassion on His people, really all mankind.
- B. Paul described God as being rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).
- C. Here, David said God is plenteous in mercy.
- D. He shows that mercy by being slow to anger.
 - 1. How many opportunities does God give men?
 - 2. Think of the Canaanites and how long it took for God to punish them.
 - 3. Think of the Israelites and how long it took for God to punish them.
 - 4. Think of our own lives and how many opportunities God has given us to return to Him.
- E. Thankfully, God does not stay angry long or we would not last.
- F. Then David states a great truth about the mercy of God.
 - 1. God does not deal with us according to our sins.
 - 2. One sin is worthy of death (Romans 6:23).
 - 3. However, because of His mercy, forgiveness is available.
 - 4. Really, forgiveness is a by-product of His mercy.
 - 5. If God were not merciful, there is no way we would ever be able to be forgiven.
- G. As far as the sky is from the ground, God is that merciful.

V. All these blessing are contingent upon one thing (vs. 18).

- A. The blessings of God are contingent upon us being faithful.
- B. God blesses those who keep His covenant and do His will.
- C. All these blessings from God hinge on us doing what God says.

- D. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments."
- E. If we want these great blessings we must keep God's commandments.