

Psalm 103: The Great Love of God

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Why should we love God? What is so good about God? Why would someone choose to be Godly? These are some of the most important questions in our life, questions we need to be able to answer. What is it about God that causes people to want to love Him? The answer is found in Psalm 103.

David begins the Psalm by praising God and making the declaration: forget not all His benefits. What are the benefits that David sees in God? First is the forgiveness of sins. David had a very important encounter with this virtue of God in 2 Samuel 12:13-14. His horrible sins were exposed, and God choose to forgive him; he would not “die” before God (although he would still experience consequences).

Second, David observes how God redeems life from destruction; we can see that God offer a restoration or care of our very health and well being. David had emotional and physical wounds, and he recalls that God mended his heart and soul.

Third, David knew of all the times God had saved his life. Even as a boy, David understood this important work of God. In 1 Samuel 17:37 he told King Saul that God had delivered his life from the paw of lions and bears. David would be delivered many times from giants, kings and armies.

Fourth, David describes God as having crowned him with kindness and mercy. God’s great love for him came through promises and covenants that He offered David, particularly the promise of the seed of David, the Christ.

Fifth, God blesses the lives of those who are His. This David himself experienced; in 2 Samuel 7:1 he saw how God had given his kingdom peace. We as Christians are proved care by God if we seek first the kingdom (Matthew 6).

David believed something we need to believe: God’s active force in our lives. This is the work of providence, which is an expectation that God will provide. God knows how to act in our lives, and we need to see that He has done so in the past and will do so again (2 Peter 2:9).

There are particular benefits to the people of God that David continues to expound upon. First is His patience (“slow to anger”). God will be more patient with us who seek Him than others. He understand that growing takes time, and is willing to be patient with us. Second, when we sin, He won’t always be angry with us and remember our sins (Jeremiah 31:34). Third, when we sin, He won’t deal with us as we deserve; David declares in Psalm 136 “His mercy endures forever”.

But ultimately it is the great love for us that is what makes God so great. That love is the foundation of the New Testament. The very characteristics David proclaims here are found in the covenant of Christ. The immeasurable love is in Ephesians 3:17-19; His love like a father to

their children is in John 1:12. God's mindfulness of our condition is clearly declared in Hebrews 5:7-9.

David concludes by saying that God is worthy of praise from all things. His angels, the hosts of spiritual places and the entire earth should praise our God.