

The Freedom Of Forgiveness
“Psalms & Proverbs: Wisdom For 2024” #3
 Psalm 103:1-14
 Pastor Roy Halberg

- Have you ever contemplated the benefits of being a Christian, a follower of Jesus?
- King David contemplated the benefits of knowing God ...in Psalm 103 we discover what David learned

When God forgives, God forgives completely and eternally

1. FORGIVENESS IS THE FIRST AND MOST BASIC OF ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS/BENEFITS TO HIS CHILDREN (vv2-7)

- “*BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, BLESS His holy name*”
- +God is so worthy of being blessed because of the benefits we receive

William Dunlop (1692-1720) "to bless God means with ardent affection humbly to acknowledge those divine excellencies which render Him the best and greatest of beings, the only object worthy of the highest adoration...to give Him the praise of all those glorious attributes that adorn his nature...to embrace every proper opportunity of owning our veneration and esteem of his excellent greatness and to declare to all about us, as loudly as we can, the goodness and the grace of his conduct toward men"

-One of the greatest needs in every human heart is the need for forgiveness

-C.S Lewis is right when he says that "one of Satan's strategies is to get Christians preoccupied with their failures and to forget and totally lose sight of God's great forgiveness."

2. FORGIVENESS IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF GOD'S VERY NATURE AND CHARACTER (vv8-9)

→ Notice how David describes God vv4-8

- lovingkindness=
- compassion=
- gracious=
- slow to anger=
- abounding in lovingkindness=

→ THIS is the God we know and love; THIS is the God who forgives

3. FORGIVENESS IS THE BASIS OF ALL OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH HIS CHILDREN (vv10-14)

A. What He doesn't do

- He does not strive
- He does not keep anger forever
- He does not deal with us according to our sins
- He does not reward us according to our iniquities

B. What He does do

-HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US!

-God's geometry:

- HEIGHT= as far as heaven is above the earth v11 so great is His lovingkindness
- WIDTH= as far as the east is from the west v12
THE PLACE OF NO R_____
- DEPTH= cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)
THE PLACE OF NO R_____
- LENGTH= cast them behind his back (Isa 38:17)
THE PLACE OF NO R_____

→ When God forgives, God forgives completely and eternally

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!

→ Some things you can do this week in response to God's forgiveness:

1. Bless the lord with all you've got . . . praise him _____ and _____
2. List his benefits . . . keep a _____... a prayer list... a log
3. Respond with a life of _____
-fear Him
-obey Him
4. Encourage a discouraged friend who has _____ . . . God still loves and forgives
5. Share with an unsaved friend who needs to hear of forgiveness
6. Receive His forgiveness if you still haven't done so

→ DO YOU BELIEVE THAT:

WHEN GOD FORGIVES, HE FORGIVES COMPLETELY & ETERNALLY?

→ If so, what will you do in response?

Bless

THE

LORD

OF MY

Soul

PSALM 103

THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

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THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

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-notice how David describes God vv7-8

- **lovingkindness**= bow the neck in courtesy to an equal
- **compassion**= to love, fondle; mercy
- **gracious**= to favor; stoop in kindness to an inferior
- **slow to anger**= long in the nostril
- **abounding in lovingkindness**=
to increase, overflow

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A. What He doesn't do . . .

not strive ("grapple")

not keep ("cherish") anger forever

not deal with us according to our sins

not reward us according to our iniquities

(reward= benefit v2)



HOPE CITY
CHURCH

THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

3. FORGIVENESS IS THE BASIS OF ALL OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH HIS CHILDREN (vv10-14)

A. What He doesn't do . . .

B. What He does do . . .

HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US!



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THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

→ God's geometry

- HEIGHT= as far as heaven is above the earth so great is His lovingkindness v11
- WIDTH= as far as the east is from the west v12
THE PLACE OF NO RETURN
- DEPTH= cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)
THE PLACE OF NO RETRIEVAL
- LENGTH= cast them behind his back (Isa 38:17)
THE PLACE OF NO REMEMBRANCE

→ Some things you can do this week in response to God's forgiveness

1. Bless the Lord with all you've got . . . praise him loud and long
2. List his benefits: keep a journal... a prayer list... a log
3. Respond with a life of obedience (fear & obey Him)
4. Encourage a discouraged friend who has failed . . .
God still loves and forgives
5. Share with an unsaved friend who needs to hear of forgiveness
6. Receive His forgiveness if you still haven't done so

THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.



THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing as the days go by.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings. Wealth can never buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.



THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

