

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning

Week 46 (November 8-14, 2015)

We will look at Psalm 103 this week as we continue to move toward Thanksgiving.

Sunday, November 8 (read Psalm 103:1-5)

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits . . . (Psalm 103:2)

How often do you thank God for His wonderful benefit package? To do this, you have to recognize the fact that we are absolutely helpless to save ourselves unless we believe in Jesus and receive His pardon for our sins (see Titus 3:4-7). Once we ask Him to come and live in our hearts, we should be more than willing to praise Him, even down deep in our souls (v. 1). Reflecting on God's benefit package, the psalmist starts his praise by acknowledging that his sins have been forgiven (v. 3a). Have you reflected on this truth recently? Take a minute to consider every misdeed of your life. You are not allowed to omit anything, even things you did during your teenage years. How would you like to stand before a holy God and have your entire life replayed in His presence? If this makes you shiver, praise Him for forgiving your sins through the cross! If it doesn't cause you to flinch, you still don't understand the debt you owe to Jesus!

Monday, November 9 (reread Psalm 103:1-5)

. . . who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases . . . (Psalm 103:3)

The fact that you are still alive proves that God has "healed all your diseases" (v. 3). No disease can cause **premature** death, because "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139:16b). Nothing can surprise our God! I am aware that all of us have medical challenges, especially those who are my age or older. However, since nothing will enter our lives without God's permission, we can praise Him for healing every disease that could have taken our life before this time. Unless He calls us home in the rapture, all of us will experience physical death, either by disease or accident, but it will all be according to his predetermined time. This means that we don't have to stress about a doctor's misdiagnosis for ourselves or for our loved ones. God is sovereign over all! He alone determines when we are to be born and when we are to die! Do you know anyone that could be set free by this truth? Introduce him/her to these devotions!

Tuesday, November 10 (reread Psalm 103:1-5)

. . . Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion . . . (Psalm 103:4)

As a result of being forgiven of your sins (v. 3), God gives you eternal life and "redeems your life from the pit" (v. 4). When was the last time you seriously considered what life in hell would be like? When have you imagined a life of total darkness and aloneness? When have you contemplated eternity in the lake of fire? I fear that we have so demeaned "hellfire and brimstone" preaching that an entire generation has grown up feeling **entitled** to heaven. Jesus has changed your destiny from eternity in the pit to a life characterized by "love and compassion" (v. 4). Assuming you have believed these facts, is there any reason you cannot praise Him? Is there any reason you cannot tell others what He has done for you? Is there any reason you cannot invite others to experience the joy of knowing Him? Is there any chance that He is **not** speaking to you right now?

Wednesday, November 11 (reread Psalm 103:1-5)

... who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's ... (Psalm 103:5)

Do you want to look younger? You can spend lots of money on de-aging creams that won't work, or you can trust God enough to "wait on the Lord" (Isaiah 40:31) and He will renew your strength. I have witnessed those who released the pain of their past to God and, in a moment, looked 10 years younger when the worry-lines disappeared. For me, two wonderful New Testament verses seal the satisfaction of desires promised in today's printed verse: 1) But seek **first** His kingdom and His righteousness, and **all these things** will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33, emphasis mine) and, 2) He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, **along with Him, graciously give us all things** (Romans 8:32, emphasis mine)? God wants you to stop worrying about health and wealth so that He can remove the worry-lines and renew your strength! Will you allow Him to do it?

Thursday, November 12 (read Psalm 103:6-10)

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8)

Today's text is referring primarily to Israel, but its application extends to all the children of God throughout all generations. Moses taught the Israelites the Word of God through the **law**, but **grace** and **truth** have come to us through Jesus Christ (see John 1:17). You must see God through the description in today's printed verse above, or you will not understand how He is working to make your life complete. Our sins anger Him because He knows the joy we could experience if only we would trust Him in all matters; however, He has provided a wonderful plan to restore us to Himself. His anger was poured out on Calvary when He turned His back on His Son bearing all the sins of mankind (v. 9). The wages of sin (death) were paid on the cross so that the gift of God (eternal life) might be given to everyone who believes (see Romans 6:23). Thank God today that "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities" (v. 10)!

Friday, November 13 (read Psalm 103:11-16)

... as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

God's love goes beyond our feeble comprehension. He uses the vastness of the universe to paint a picture of His love for His children (v. 11). I am always amazed when I remember the trillions of miles that separate the stars in the heavens. God's love for us goes beyond that! He has separated our sins from us "as far as the east is from the west" (v. 12). If He had said north and south, I would have checked out the distance between the two poles, but He illustrated using east to west so that I could see that His love is measureless. The closest picture God can paint of His love to us is the love we have for our children (v. 13). Even the parental illustration is limited, but Jesus understands our human weaknesses, because He spent 33 years on earth robed in a human body (v. 14). Our days on earth are short, and even our greatest accomplishments will not be remembered by future generations (v. 15-16). Since God is that awesome and we are that feeble, shouldn't we focus on Him all the days of our lives?

Saturday, November 14 (read Psalm 103:17-22)

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children ... (Psalm 103:17)

The printed verse above teaches the same truth as Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." My heart's desire is to "keep His covenant and remember to obey His precepts" (v. 18), so I can be assured that His righteousness will extend to my **grandchildren** (v. 17-18). I never want the family circle to be broken, so I rejoice over the verses such as these that promise continuity with my loved ones. God rules over all the earth from His throne in heaven (v. 19), and He will soon reign on earth from His throne in Jerusalem; therefore, my joy is found in joining the angels in praising Him for the rest of my life (v. 20-22). Is there any reason why you cannot join us?