

Zealous for God

Wednesday Gathering; Week of Sunday, August 16, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: True believers in Jesus Christ are faithful to remind themselves of God's glorious benefits, His unchanging character, His steadfast love, and the reality that He is our loving heavenly Father. As a result, they are zealous to worship their great God and Savior!

I. REMINDER TO PRAISE GOD – Read Psalm 103:1-2

- A. David begins by praising the “holy” name of the Lord. What does it mean for God to be holy? In light of Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8, why is it significant that David begins with God's holiness?

- B. David begins (v.1) and concludes (v.22) the psalm with an encouragement to speak to your own soul and focus on praising God. What does it look like to speak to your own soul? Do you tend to speak to yourself or does the world speak to you?

II. REASONS TO PRAISE GOD – Read Psalm 103:3-18

- A. According to David, what are the benefits that the Lord grants to His people?

- B. How would you interpret verse 5? How is this an encouragement to you during Covid-19?

- C. Verses 7-10 point back to Exodus 33 and 34. What is the significance of the Exodus narrative to Psalm 103? In light of the context, how do these verses comfort and encourage you?

- D. As you consider man's significance according to verses 14-16 and then recall the immeasurable vastness of the Father's steadfast love in verses 11-13, how do these truths fill your heart with thankfulness? How can these truths combat our tendency to grumble and complain?

- E. When do you typically tend to forget God's benefits? Is there a pattern in which this takes place? What are some ways to help recall the glorious news of the gospel to your own soul?

- F. According to verse 18 (see also John 14:15), what is the greatest form of worship? On a practical and personal level, how would you like to grow in imitating the Lord Jesus?

III. REALITY OF PRAISING GOD – Read Psalm 103:19-22

- A. What observations do you make about the reality of those who are praising the Eternal King in verses 19-22? How do these verses connect to Philippians 2:11 and why are they helpful to us?

- B. How would you like to cultivate a heart that is zealous for God? What are some practical things that we can do on a daily basis to spur one another on to a greater affection for the Lord Jesus Christ?