



Don't Stop Praising

By Shannon Ford on May 7, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 103

Psalm 103 is a thanksgiving psalm that celebrates the work and blessings of God. Psalm 103 has no requests! David started with individual and personal praise (1-6), then moved to national praise (6-19), and concluded with universal praise (20-22). The psalm is nothing but praise. David opens with personal praise "*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*" The phrase is found in verses 1, 2 and 22. Verses 3-5 describe the acts of God and reveal to us why we should never stop praising God. David writes that we have been forgiven, healed, redeemed, crowned, satisfied, and renewed. David continues praising God because He is the merciful Savior (vv. 8-12). He has not punished us according to our sins but has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. Praise the Lord for the great things He has done.

Psalm 103 has been referred to as David's "Hallelujah Chorus." It is also referred to as the "envelope psalm," because it ends in exactly the same way as it begins, the subject matter being enclosed or enveloped between the opening and closing words: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*" When we think of how good God has been to us, what can we give Him in return? Praise and thanksgiving for His wonderful attributes and deeds. True praise ought to come from the believer's heart daily. Worship is our adoring response to all that God says and does. Do you pray for the sole purpose of praising Him? You have much for which to praise Him, for His love and care never cease. He saved you, keeps you, and satisfies you. Do not stop praising Him.

It has been said that "God remembers what man forgets and God forgets what man remembers." We usually praise the Lord for something He has done (vv. 1-5), but we also should praise Him for something He has not done (v. 10). Never forget God's blessings. Praise Him for all He has done. Rejoice today that God does not deal with you according to your sins but according to the cross. Based on the cross and God's grace, your sins have been forgiven by His precious blood. Never take God for granted; always take time to praise Him every day.

PRAYER: Father, forgive us for the times when we take You for granted. Forgive us for starting our daily prayers with our personal requests without taking time to praise You. Lord, help us to praise You daily because Your blessings and works are so wonderful, and You allow us to be a part of them. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 111

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