

# The Prevailing Love of God

## Psalm 103

Sunday Message Notes

22 May 2022

The word bless, *barak*, in Hebrew, means “to kneel.” While we often associate blessing with something that is received from God, to bless God is an act of adoration and humility. There are many reasons to bless the Lord, as explored by David in his writing of Psalms 103. The Bible describes David as a man after God’s own heart, but far from a picture of holiness, he has grievously sinned numerous times. For one thing, not only did he commit adultery with Bathsheba, but he also masterminded the murder of her husband to get away with what he did. We are not unlike David; because our moral compass is broken, we are all guilty of sin. The good news is that even though we are all fall short of His glory, we serve a compassionate God. Ephesians 2:1-45 says, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins ... but because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Another benefit of God’s prevailing love for us is that he has adopted us into His family. Ephesians 1:5 says that “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” What is the significance of this adoption? According to Roman law, a child who is adopted can never lose his inheritance, which is a stark difference from what can happen to a biological child. Our status as adoptees of God means that He can never disinherit us, no matter what. God’s fatherly love for us also echoes the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, where, even though the son chose to leave his father and do as he pleased, when he decided to return home, his father welcomed him with open arms. God will always welcome us back as we are.

That is not to say that our relationship with God will always be at its best. Because we continually sin, there will be times when we experience a strain in our relationship with Him. When Adam and Eve realized the gravity of their sin in Genesis 3, they attempted to hide from God in shame. However, Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east



is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." God's love and forgiveness for us knows no end. No matter how much we want to hide away from him, He will always look for us. When you take all of this into consideration, there is no other fitting response other than blessing the Lord.

Psalm 103:17-18 says, "But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them." There are many benefits of God's prevailing love for His sons and daughters, though we might not deserve any of them because of our sin. We can rejoice, however, because we have Jesus, through whom our sin is broken and we are given a new life. To accept this new life, we need only to:

- A - admit and acknowledge that without God we are nothing (John 15:5)
- B - believe in our hearts that it is only Jesus who can save us (Acts 4:12)
- C - confess our sins, for He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (You may use these as a guide during your DGroup discussion):

1. For what personal reasons will you bless God?
2. Do you have an easy time recalling and remembering what God has done in your life? Can you briefly share?
3. What new insights do you have after leading the benefits God has given us? What's your outlook about God?
4. What do you commit to do this week and moving forward?