"GOD'S BENEFITS"

Psalm 103:1-22
12-18-2019

INTRODUCTION:

***Don't forget God's benefits!**

I. FORGIVENESS (v. 3)

II. HEALING (v. 3b)

III. REDEMPTION (v. 4)

IV. PROVISION (v. 5)

V. DEFENSE (v. 6-7)

***VI. MERCY (v. 8-17)**

Characteristics of God's mercy. His mercy is:

A. Patient (v. 8)

B. Early (v. 9)

C. Undeserved (v. 10)

D. Great (v. 11)

E. Powerful (v. 12)

F. Compassionate (v. 13)

G. Understanding (v. 14)

H. Eternal (v. 15-17)

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INTRODUCTION:

V. 1
"My soul" - a genuine thankfulness comes not merely from our lips but from the depths of our soul. Our immaterial, invisible, spiritual being.

"All that is within me" - All that is in my innermost being; to have all of our emotions; heart-felt feelings, thoughts, etc. - spring out in praise to God.

EX: How important it is to have a job with good benefits (Ex: medical insurance, eye coverage, dental plan, special privileges, and discounts, etc.)

What benefits are there to being a Christian? The Christian life is the only life that provides the benefits described in Psalm 103.

V. 2

"Forget not" - There is a tendency after you have been saved for awhile to take many of God's benefits for granted (Deut. 6:12 - "Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." Deut. 8:11 - "Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments and his statutes, which I command thee this day")

***Don't forget God's benefits!**

I. FORGIVENESS (v. 3)

--"All thine iniquities" - The totality of God's forgiveness
(God forgives totally)

--"All thine iniquities" - The personal nature of God's forgiveness
(God forgives personally)

--All thine iniquities" -
God forgives even the perverseness of our hearts
"Iniquity" = refers to the perverseness of the heart; the distortions, and twisting of what is right into wrong; crookedness

II. HEALING (v. 3b)

"Who healeth all" - Every time someone is healed, God should be praised, because without His graciousness even the best of medicines and physicians are futile! Ultimately, God is responsible for the healing of the common cold up to the healing of cancer through chemotherapy. Why? Because He not only designed the body with an immune system, but He imports wisdom for men to discover medicine and techniques to cure disease and ailment.

God controlled the plagues - Ex. 15:26 - "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

(cp. Jer. 30:17)

III. REDEMPTION (v. 4)

"Redeem" - to repurchase; to buy again; we who were once sold under the dominion of sin (Rom. 7) and its consequences are now free, because God bought us with his own blood (I Pet. 1).

"Destruction" - the pit of ruin and waste; i.e. from the grave and consequent punishment. God has redeemed us from death! (Ps. 49:15 - "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.")

"Crown" - symbolic of position and privilege.

"Lovingkindness" - God's loyal love

"Tender mercies" - God's compassion

IV. PROVISION (v. 5)

Our needs and desires are satisfied by God from whom flows nothing but good (James 1:17)

Ps. 107:9 - "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Ps. 145:16 - "Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

"Thy youth is renewed like the eagles" - The eagle has the God-given ability to periodically shed its old wings (old feathers) (a process called "moulting") and replace them, thus giving the eagle a new increase of vigor (Is. 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.")

V. DEFENSE (v. 6-7)

V. 6

God acts as our <u>defense attorney</u> and <u>judge</u>. He stands only on the side of <u>truth</u>.

Let God fight your battles and defend your case.

Jesus is our "advocate" who defends us - I Jn. 2:1

V. 7

"His ways" = His just laws

"His acts" = His retribution and judgment (in Egypt and in the wilderness)

*VI. MERCY (v. 8-17)

Characteristics of God's mercy / His mercy is:

A. Patient (v. 8)

"Slow to anger" - God is longsuffering

Both in the O.T. (Joel 2:12-13) and in the N.T. (II Pet. 3:9, 15), God's patience is with a view toward people's repentance.

Old Testament - Joel 2:12-13 - "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your god: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

New Testament - II Pet. 3:9, 15 - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. . . And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom gives unto him hath written unto you"

B. Early (v. 9)

"Chide" = accuse; dispute; be harsh over sin

"Neither . . . keep his anger forever" - God does not harbor his anger; or "nurse a grudge"

C. Undeserved (v. 10)

God has been better to us than our sins deserved. If God gave us what we deserved, we would all presently be engulfed in the flames of Hell.

D. Great (v. 11)

"Mercy" - His loyal love

Upon whom the mercy of God resides, sin must flee away -- billions of light years away!

E. Powerful (v. 12)

F. Compassionate (v. 13)

A good father has feelings for his children that no one else has.

Mal. 3:17 - "And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

G. Understanding (v. 14)

God does not excuse our sin, He pardons it, knowing our human frailty, depravity, and weakness.

H. Eternal (v. 15-17)

CONCLUSION:

God's mercy (loyal love) is only experienced and appreciated by those who fear Him (v. 11, 13, 17) and obey Him (v. 18)

V. 19-22 - In view of the preceding benefits, David closes Psalm 103 as he began it. . . with

a call to praise!