



Sermon, Sunday February 6, 2022

"Praise the Lord"

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 103:1-22 ¹Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ²Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: ⁸The LORD is compassion-ate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—¹⁸with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. ¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. ⁰Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. ²¹Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. ²Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul.

Introduction: The Lord who redeems for our sins

During my pastoral ministry, I saw people struggling to believe in Jesus as their Christ who did not have faith in the Lord. Also, I saw people struggling because they did not have confidence in the words of the Bible. Our confession of the Lord as Christ, even though it is a confession through our will, is possible through the grace of the Lord given to us through the Holy Spirit. So I am convinced that the greatest miracle we experience in life is to believe in Jesus and be saved. If you agree with me, would you say Amen?

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" But, in Romans 3:24 says, "And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Therefore, Christians who have been saved by the grace of the Lord should be able to praise the Lord and give thanks to the Lord.

Body: A psalm of David

Psalm 103 is a psalm of David. This psalm is about praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Today is the first week of February. Let's look back on our lives over the past month. If our last month's life has been filled with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, I hope we can continue to live like that. However, if our lives are filled with complaints, negative thoughts and language rather than praise and thanks to the Lord, I advise you to turn away from that life.

In order to live a happy life, we must avoid places full of negative thoughts, language, and complaints. So, let our ears be in a place where we can hear praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Also, our mouths should be able to express gratitude and praise, not negative words towards others.



Today's text Psalm 103:2 says, "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits". The word 'Praise' in this verse is to strengthen our reverence for the Lord by professing good words, words of praise, and reverent words about Him.

That is why we must be able to open our hearts and think of the Lord, confess our love for the Lord out loud, raise our hands to exalt Him, and reveal our hearts.

So, what should we praise the Lord for?

1. What the Lord has done for us

First, we should praise the Lord for what He has done for us. **Let's look at verses 3-4 in today's text.** **"Praise the LORD, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."**

Forgiveness of our sins is the first work of all the things the Lord has done for us. Sin is the pride of a creature that seeks to take the place of the Creator. Also, sin does not have the heart to follow or keep the will of the Lord. Furthermore, sin is the manifestation of all our weaknesses.

The Lord has forgiven all our sins. And after the Lord has forgiven us from our sins, He has shown us His love and tender mercies. Such content is described in today's text verses 4-5. **Let's look at verse 4;** **"Praise the LORD, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."** The Lord, with love and mercy, took over our own responsibilities for life. **Let's continue to verse 5;** **"Praise the LORD, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle"**

And the Lord meets our needs and renews us. Dear brothers and sisters! What are some good things the Lord has done in your life? Do not forget it, and confess your thanks and praise to the Lord.

2. What the Lord has done to the community

We must thank and praise the Lord for the good he has done for the community as well as for the good He has done for us individually. **Let's look at verse 8 of today's text.** **"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."**

This verse is a quotation from Exodus chapter 34, and it shows the attributes of the Lord. The setting of Exodus chapter 34 is when Moses climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, fasted for 40 days, and had fellowship with God. However, the Israelites could not wait for Moses to come down from Mt. Sinai. So they made the golden calf into an idol. God saw this and told Moses to go down from Mount Sinai. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he saw Israel serving the golden calf, and was angry, broke the stone tablets with the commandments, and then climbed Mount Sinai again. At this time, God promised to give the second commandment to Moses, and the word he spoke to Moses is verse 8 of the text.

The Lord rebukes us when we go astray, but He does not harbor His wrath forever. We should personally grow in our faith. Our faith grows when we are in a healthy community of faith. However, working with neighbors in a community is not an easy task. Because being in the community reveals our weaknesses. We give and receive wounds because of greed, jealousy, and hatred in our hearts.

However, the head of the church, the community of faith, is the Lord, and He leads the church. The church is a place to experience the love and mercy of the Lord. We can see the Lord's wonderful work for the community through His Church. Let's not forget the wonderful things the Lord has accomplished through the Simpson-Epworth-Des Moines Korean Church, the community of faith the Lord has granted us, and let's strive

for the healthy growth of the community of faith that has been granted to us. So, why does the Lord do good for individuals and communities?

3. The Lord who made us his children.

Let's look at verses 13-14 in today's text. "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."

In fact, the Lord loves us more than parents love their children. Also, the Lord knows our weaknesses better than anyone else. So, the Lord is patient with us, never cherishes his anger, and shows His love and mercy in community and individual life.

Conclusion: What should we do?

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Today's text 103:2 speaks. "**Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits**" Those who know the good that the Lord has done for individuals and communities are those who remember His grace and do His will in our lives.

And the first step in doing such a thing is to praise the Lord and confess our thanks to the Lord. The Christian's ear is given to us to listen to praise and thanksgiving of world, and the Christian's mouth is given for the confession of praise by us. May our ears and our mouths not be used to hear negative things or speak of complaints.

When we do praise and thank the Lord for the good he has done for us and our community, negative words and thoughts will not settle in our minds and hearts. Finally, let us remember the last verse of Psalm 103 in our hearts today. "**Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.**" Amen!