

Psalms 103:1-12 (NIV84)

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

When talking with one of my children yesterday (who shall remain nameless and whose location is undisclosed), we were reflecting on how blessed we are by the Lord. To have believing parents and grandparents, and believing children and grandchildren -- there is nothing more important than that.

When he and I reflected on these things we would have to respond as the Psalmist: "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

But an amazing aspect of our Lord is that He doesn't just bless me and my family; He does the same for you and yours. As each of us remembers "all his benefits," we can't help but be in awe of the grace and mercy He pours out on us every day.

The greatest blessing He bestows on us is His forgiveness for our sins, without which we would be doomed. But "as far as the east is from the west" He has removed our sins from us, never to remember them, never to judge us because of them. Jesus has already suffered that judgement for us.

In the midst of dangers, our Lord safeguards our lives and preserves our health. Even in death He is gracious to us, to end our suffering, to finish our earthly race, and to welcome us into His eternal mansions.

In our journey through this earthly life, some days are far more challenging than others, but in every day our gracious Lord is by our side and continually showering us with His love and mercy.

Join with me in echoing the words of the Psalmist: "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name!"

Blessed with you in Christ!
Pastor Golm

June 12

The Grateful Life

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

How can I ever sufficiently thank my heavenly Father for all his kindnesses toward me? When I consider the unnumbered blessings which he has strewn upon my path since early childhood, I must exclaim with the psalmist: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name!"

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities." That is the greatest of all his benefits toward me. Nothing in life is more important than to know that for Jesus' sake God has forgiven me, has thrown all my sins behind his back, and will remember them again no more forever. Through Christ I am his child for time and for eternity.

"Who healeth all thy diseases." He has given me a body that is "fearfully and wonderfully made". He has given me health and strength to lead a productive life. He has nursed me and all my loved ones in days of critical illness, and has, in mercy, granted returning health. He has nourished and sustained the members of my body so that today my hands are still able to do his will and my lips are still able to sing his praise.

"Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies." The story of my life from early childhood to this present moment is a constant record of his love. My Christian parents, my Christian home, my church, my school, yes every influence which brought me to, or has kept me in, the Savior's fold all were not the fruit of my endeavors, but were the gracious leadings of his love.

Surely, I have every reason to rejoice with the psalmist and to join the chorus of all believers in the hymn of praise:

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view,
I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)