

Pastor Jason Byassee

*"Bless the Lord" Psalm 103 of David*

*1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--*

*3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

*4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*

*5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*6 The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.*

*7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.*

*8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities*

*11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.*

*12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

*13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.*

*14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.*

*15 As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;*

*16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.*

*17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those*

*who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,*

*18 to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.*

*19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.*

*20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.*

*21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.*

*22 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

1. The psalm is overwhelmingly focused on blessing the Lord. What does it mean to bless the Lord? Usually you bless someone who is needier than you. You don't give money to someone richer than you, right? Blessing the Lord is the recognition and joyful exclamation of God's blessedness. David recognized with all his soul that the Lord's blessings to him. What are some things that you have received from the Lord that caused you to declare his blessedness?
2. Psalm 103:8 summarizes the blessed of God this way: "the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." This psalm focuses on God's forgiving ways. David was an adulterer and a murderer. In fact many of the heroes in the Bible were also great sinners. But the scandal of grace is that no sin is too great for God to forgive. In fact, according to Paul in Romans, the greater the sinner, the more blessings of mercy is given. What does God's grace and mercy mean to you?
3. How can the recognition of blessedness of God's mercy and grace be applied as wisdom in your life?