

Bless the Lord and Forget Not His Benefits (Part 2)

Psalm 103:1-5

Regarding Psalm 103:

As in the lofty Alps, some peaks rise above all others, so among even the inspired Psalms there are heights of song which overtop the rest. This one hundred and third Psalm has ever seemed to us to be the Monte Rosa [highest peak in the Swiss Alps] of the divine chain of mountains of praise, glowing with a ruddier light than any of the rest. It is as the apple tree among the trees of the wood, and its golden fruit has a flavor such as no fruit ever bears, unless it has been ripened in the full sunshine of mercy.

It is man's reply to the benedictions of his God, his Song on the Mount answering to his Redeemer's Sermon on the Mount. Nebuchadnezzar adored his idol with flute, harp, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music; and David, in far nobler style awakens all the melodies of heaven and earth in honor of the one only living and true God.

Our attempt at exposition is commenced under an impressive sense of the utter impossibility of doing justice to so sublime a composition; we call upon our soul and all that is within us to aid in the pleasurable task; but, alas, our soul is finite, and our all of mental faculty far too little for the enterprise. There is too much in the Psalm, for a thousand pens to write, it is one of those all-comprehending Scriptures which is a Bible in itself, and it might alone almost suffice for the hymn book of the church.

Charles Spurgeon

Parallel Classic Commentary on the Psalms

Regarding “forgives all your iniquity” (v. 3a):

This is the first of God’s gifts to the penitent sinner who has become a true worshiper. This is salvation, this is the door to all the treasure house of divine grace and mercy.

John MacArthur

Regarding “healing of all your diseases” (v. 3b):

The consequence of free forgiveness is, that God governs us by his Spirit, mortifies the lusts of our flesh, cleanses us from our corruptions, and restores us to the healthy condition of a godly and upright life

John MacArthur

I Will Glory in My Redeemer (first verse refrain)

I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death
My only Savior before the holy Judge
The Lamb Who is my righteousness
The Lamb Who is my righteousness

Regarding “who crowns you with steadfast love” (v. 4b):

He asserts that we are surrounded with them; as if he had said – before, behind, on all sides, above and beneath, the grace of God presents itself to us in immeasurable abundance; so that there is no place devoid of it.

John Calvin

Regarding “who satisfies you with good” (v. 5a):

It is only the favour and grace of God that can give satisfaction to a soul, can suit its capacities, supply its needs, and answer to its desires.

Matthew Henry

No man is ever filled to satisfaction but a believer, and only God himself can satisfy even him. Many a worldling is satiated, but not one is satisfied. God satisfies the very soul of man.

Charles Spurgeon

I Will Glory in My Redeemer (second verse)

I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG