

The Freedom Of Forgiveness
“Psalms & Proverbs: Wisdom For 2024” #3
Psalm 103:1-14
Pastor Roy Halberg

- Have you ever contemplated the benefits of being a Christian, a follower of Jesus?
→ King David contemplated the benefits of knowing God ...in Psalm 103 we discover what David learned

When God forgives, God forgives completely and eternally

1. FORGIVENESS IS THE FIRST AND MOST BASIC OF ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS/BENEFITS TO HIS CHILDREN (vv2-7)

- “*BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, BLESS His holy name*”
+God is so worthy of being blessed because of the benefits we receive

William Dunlop (1692-1720) "to bless God means with ardent affection humbly to acknowledge those divine excellencies which render Him the best and greatest of beings, the only object worthy of the highest adoration...to give Him the praise of all those glorious attributes that adorn his nature...to embrace every proper opportunity of owning our veneration and esteem of his excellent greatness and to declare to all about us, as loudly as we can, the goodness and the grace of his conduct toward men"

-One of the greatest needs in every human heart is the need for forgiveness

-C.S Lewis is right when he says that "one of Satan's strategies is to get Christians preoccupied with their failures and to forget and totally lose sight of God's great forgiveness."

2. FORGIVENESS IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF GOD'S VERY NATURE AND CHARACTER (vv8-9)

→ Notice how David describes God vv4-8

- lovingkindness=
- compassion=
- gracious=
- slow to anger=
- abounding in lovingkindness=

→ THIS is the God we know and love; THIS is the God who forgives

3. FORGIVENESS IS THE BASIS OF ALL OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH HIS CHILDREN (vv10-14)

A. What He doesn't do

- He does not strive
- He does not keep anger forever
- He does not deal with us according to our sins
- He does not reward us according to our iniquities

B. What He does do

-HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US!

-God's geometry:

- HEIGHT= as far as heaven is above the earth v11 so great is His lovingkindness
- WIDTH= as far as the east is from the west v12
THE PLACE OF NO R_____
- DEPTH= cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)
THE PLACE OF NO R_____
- LENGTH= cast them behind his back (Isa 38:17)
THE PLACE OF NO R_____

→ When God forgives, God forgives completely and eternally

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!

→ Some things you can do this week in response to God's forgiveness:

1. Bless the lord with all you've got . . . praise him _____ and _____
2. List his benefits . . . keep a _____... a prayer list... a log
3. Respond with a life of _____
 - fear Him
 - obey Him
4. Encourage a discouraged friend who has _____ . . . God still loves and forgives
5. Share with an unsaved friend who needs to hear of forgiveness
6. Receive His forgiveness if you still haven't done so

→ DO YOU BELIEVE THAT:

WHEN GOD FORGIVES, HE FORGIVES COMPLETELY & ETERNALLY?

→ If so, what will you do in response?