



GOD'S BLESSINGS AND
OUR THANKS
PSALM 103
JANUARY 5, 2020
DR. ANDREW SCHWENK

I. Introduction

Most of us are very familiar with God's blessings *in* our lives. But let me ask you, how can we give blessing back to God *with* our lives? Psalm 103 is overflowing with ways to "bless God" or to "praise the Lord".

II. Inside Call of Praise (vv. 1-5)

- a. Praising God from our hearts
- b. Having our iniquities forgiven

III. Outside Call of Praise (vv. 6-18)

- a. Praising God for Christ's work of redemption
- b. God's eternal covenant with his people

IV. All Sides Call of Praise (vv. 19-22)

- a. Praising God from all Creation
- b. From the inside, outside, all sides

V. Conclusion

For us as believers, this is to be the focus of our lives, isn't it? This is where our spiritual compass needs to be pinned—directly on God himself. Psalm 103 is joyful, filled with a pure praise Psalm.



CEFC Sermon-Based Growth Group

Week: December 1, 2019

Title: God's Blessings and Our Thanks

Text: Psalm 103

Kick Starters...

1. What does it mean to be thankful in your life? Humbly, how high does your 'gratitude meter' read today?
2. How does being thankful allow us to see God's blessings in our lives and the lives of others?

Entertain the text

3. Read the text out loud (if time allows) and discuss/list/highlight any significant words or observations. Make notes in your Bible to help you recall anything important to revisit or pray over. Use cross-Scripture texts as is helpful.

Engage the text

4. When do you find yourself most thankful to God or when are you most likely to thank God?
5. What does it mean to "bless the Lord" from your soul?
6. What does it mean as a Christian to know that God does not spend his time focusing on the 'list' of failures we have? How does this help us understand his compassion and mercy in our lives?
7. Considering our guilt, how do we come to be better understand that character of God and his love for us through his patience and mercy in our lives?
8. Look at verses 17-18 together and discuss the significance of "everlasting to everlasting?"
9. Read Deut. 4:19 together and discuss the temptation to worship, adore, exalt the creation over the Creator in our lives? Why is this dangerous?

Execute the text

10. Remember and share some of God's great blessings in your lives both past and present and pray over them together. E.g., How has God blessed you? Your marriage? Your children? Your grandchildren? Your

mind? Your heart? Your compassion? Your job? Your
love of truth? Your understanding of God?