

God's Benefits

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and forget not all His benefits.—Psalm 103:2

When we think of the benefits of God, our mind may focus on the material blessings such as a good job, a warm home, plenty to eat, or even a dependable car. Perhaps we are reminded of the blessings of family, friends, the fellowship at our Church, and solid Bible teaching and preaching. These are all benefits for which we can express our gratitude to God.

In Psalm 103, the Psalmist indicates that God has bestowed other benefits upon us. The first item on David's list is forgiveness of sin. The list includes the physical blessings of healing of diseases and satisfying our mouth with good things. David highlights ways God blesses us that stem from who He is: loving kindness and tender mercies, righteousness and justice. God is merciful and gracious to us. He is slow to anger.

Several verses in David's list deal with the benefits God grants us in relationship to our sin. When we appropriate the shed blood of Jesus Christ, God does not have to deal with us according to our sins. This means He does not have to "Make us pay." He does not have to punish us but He will remove our sins as far as the east is from the west. What a benefit from God that Jesus died in our place so that we do not have to pay—our sin is gone.

God blesses us redeeming our lives from destruction and directing us in His ways. He has compassion on those that fear Him. He knows our frame: our strengths and our weaknesses. He knows our limitations and remembers how much we need His strength.

David finishes His list with verses 17 and 18, *"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children. To such as keep His covenant and to those who remember His commandments to do them."*