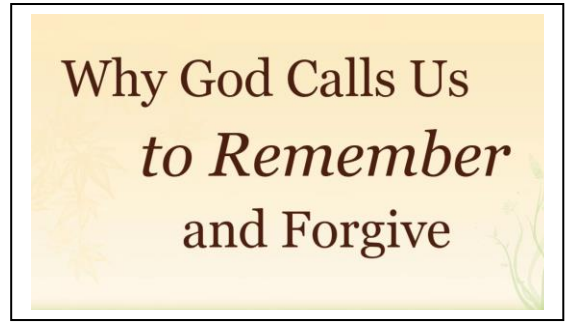


Sunday 29th October 2022

What God remembers?

Scripture: Psalm 103:7-18

Have you ever wondered what God really thinks about you?



We know about ourselves – good and bad, and often judge our behaviour as unforgiveable. And we may then assume that because we judge ourselves in a poor light, how much more will God judge us for He knows all.

Have you ever sat in the midst of your sin, felt so bad that you don't want to pray, or read the Bible or think about God? You go into the bathroom and look in the mirror – and bam – you say to yourself – you are a big disappointment; you ought to be better by now!

We can react in two ways when we sin – running TO God or running AWAY from Him. Psalm 103 is perhaps the best chapter in the Bible that clearly reveals God's compassion for us.

You may see I have 7 jumbled words on the white board. All these words tell us about God. Let's see how we go.

SSATDTAEF = STEADFAST

LFERUCMI = MERCIFUL

INAPTTE = PATIENT

SFIOVGER = FORGIVES

NNRATUDSEDS = UNDERSTANDS

EERMSDE = REDEEMS

LETNREA = ETERNAL

1. VERSES 6-7 STEADFAST

When we are tempted to take advantage of others because we believe they are not as strong as us, we draw the wrath of God, for He keeps His eyes on the helpless and He moves to balance the scales of justice. God's truth stands like a solid rock for the believer. If all of history is a book, we haven't reached the final chapter yet. We are somewhere near the end, but not sure how far away we are. Eventually God will bring everything to light, and He will judge – on that day there will be no hiding, no excuse-making, no way of escape.

Are you needy? We all should answer YES we are but God is on our side.

2. VERSE 8 MERCIFUL

There are 4 great attributes of God in this verse. The Lord is:

Compassionate – He pardons us.

Gracious – He gives us what we don't deserve.

Slow to anger – He is patient with us when we fall.

Abounds in love – He loves us more than we can imagine.

If we are going through a rough time – these are verses we should imprint on our hearts.

3. VERSES 9-10 PATIENT

Have you ever known anyone who loved to argue, who always wants to quarrel, to have the last word because they believe they are right and because they are so angry? God is not like that. He is willing to end the quarrel and welcome us back home, but sometimes we want to keep fighting Him.

When we forget to pray – God remembers to feed us.

When we forget to give thanks – God sends us restful sleep.

When we idle in sin – God sends His Holy Spirit to convict us.

When we refuse to give – God keeps on giving.

When we fall – God lifts us up.

When we disappoint ourselves and others – God still calls us His children.

4. VERSES 11-12 FORGIVES

Consider the greatness of God's love. Astronomers tells us that the farthest known light source from the earth is 10 billion light years away. That means that light starting from a source, would take 10 billion years, travelling at the speed of light, to arrive at the earth.

In contrast, the nearest star is only 4 light years away from us – that's 4 years travelling at the speed of light. So even the nearest star is a vast distance from the earth.

However, light from the sun reaches the earth in a little over 8 minutes. The universe is beyond our comprehension, yet through God's word and promises, His love is greater, vaster, larger, deeper, longer, broader and bigger in all dimensions that the universe itself.

Just consider the magnitude of God's love.

Here is the great news – when God forgives, He removes our sins, He lifts them up, He takes them away and He puts them so far away from us that we could never find them if we searched for them for 1000 years. They are gone forever. Even Satan can't bring them back.

God has a long fuse – He is slow to anger.

He has a short memory – He does not harbour His anger forever.

He has thick skin – He does not treat us as our sins deserve and

He has a great heart – so great is His love, so far has He removed our sins.

5. VERSE 13 UNDERSTANDS

When an earthly father does his job well, he makes it easy for his children to believe their Heavenly Father. The children learn that we do not worship a god of stone or an empty idol or remote deity or an impersonal machine in the sky. The Great Physician knows our weakness and understands our fears, loves us anyway and when we can't go on, He carries us on His back.

6. **VERSES 14-16 REDEEMS** During autumn we witness the green leaves on the trees, gradually turning brown and dropping to the ground. This is the law of nature. The reason that the leaves lose their green relates to the loss of green chlorophyll, which simply means the leaves are slowly dying. Their beauty comes from their death.

Who remembers one leaf? Not the tree, no-one names them or numbers them or even thinks about them. This is the way of nature; the way God has arranged the changing of the seasons.

If we are here today and gone tomorrow, if that's the end of the story, then there isn't much hope. But if you don't have anything to be thankful for this year – here is something you can hang onto – our hope is not in a man or in anything man can do – our hope is in the everlasting God.

7. VERSES 17-18 ETERNAL

We can do nothing about our frailty. We come from the hand of the Creator, stamped – fragile, handle with care. We are like the swirls of dust that blow around – we make a big scene and then suddenly disappear. Nothing can change what we are – not vitamins, exercise, clean living, slowing down or positive thinking – for all of us the end is the same. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Life without Christ is a hopeless end but life with Christ is an endless hope.

This Psalm is telling us that we are richer than we think, more blessed than we know and we have more than we realize. All that we believe, all that we have, all that we hope for is found in the cross of Christ.

Go to the cross and you will find your way home to God.

Are you weak – so am I

Are you needy – so am I

Are you guilty – so am I

Are you frail – so am I

Are you like dust – so am I.

***And God says to us, His weak, needy, guilty, frail, dusty children
– I know you through and through and I love you anyway.***

***Come to Me, rest in Me, make Me your rock. God's mercy in
Christ is more than enough for all of us.***

Handout – I should praise God because He is.

