

Sermon: Forget Not All His Benefits
Pastor Kim Engelmann and Pastor Youngmin Kim
West Valley Presbyterian Church & Onnuri Church

Psalm 103:1-5 - Forget Not All His Benefits

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and **FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS**:*

*And then the psalm goes on to describe **God's benefits package!***

When we get a new job, one of the things it is so important to ask is 'does it come with benefits' - right?

And we ask the employer...what kind of benefits? Medical, Vision, Dental, Stocks, Retirement plan...etc. etc.

Psalm 103 is a psalm of Thanksgiving that extols the Lord for his amazing benefits package that he gives to us as Christians - as children of God.

This benefits package is not given to us because of what we do, like an employee... but rather it is an inheritance

And the inheritance focuses on who God is, and what He does for those who love him...

And the psalmist - David - is saying - Don't forget what you have been blessed with as Christians..let me remind you...lest you forget...that you ought to be the most joyful, grateful people on the planet...

Forget Not....what God has given to you in his benefits plan!

Now I am forgetting more and more as I get older.

Sometimes I forget why I walk into a room, or where my keys are, or I forget where I put the list of the things I wrote down that I am not supposed to forget.

But one thing we are told in the Bible never to forget...and that is God's benefits package. Think about it..

What happens when we go to the Dr and forget that we have medical insurance? Its part of the benefits package that we get when we are employed by a certain employer.

What happens if I forget that I have medical insurance as part of my benefits?

I pay out dearly...out of my own resources. Had I simply submitted the bill to the insurance that was part of my benefits package, I would have been blessed. I wouldn't have had to use my own resources to pay and been broke afterward!

*Psalm 103 cries out to us...**Don't forget your benefits package in the Lord!***

Its when we forget what we have already been given by God that we come up short on the gratitude scale...we pay out dearly through our own efforts things that we could have asked God for, as his chosen and beloved children!

We try so hard, and sometimes we forget to pray, "God would you kick in your benefits package for me in this situation? Would you do this for me? I don't have the resources on my own.

What is our benefits package as Christians? It's the very best possible and Psalm 103 tells us all about it!

Let's take a look...

*Part of your benefits package as a Christian is that **You have a God who forgives all of your iniquity.** Everything is forgiven through Jesus Christ. There is no burden that you need to bear any longer - there's no need for guilt or shame anymore! We are a new creation because of Christ's forgiveness. Let's give thanks to God!*

Thank you God for my benefits package in you! Thank you that you forgive me unconditionally in Jesus Christ!

*Part of your benefits package as a Christian is that **You have a God who heals all of your diseases.** This isn't just physical - its also*

emotional and spiritual...it's whatever is wrong...God promises healing either in this life or in the next.

God is always moving us in that direction - toward healing and wholeness. The way the human body naturally mends itself after a cut or the way a healthy immune system kicks in to fight disease is a testimony to the Creator always moving us toward wholeness. Jesus shows us that God is the great physician and longs to lift our diseases from us. Let's give thanks to God!

Thank you God for my benefits package in you! Thank you that you heal all of my diseases!

*Part of your benefits package as a Christian is that **You have a God who redeems your life from the pit.** I think of David as a young shepherd boy pulling a lost sheep out of a cavernous hole in the ground - who without the shepherd would have died from the elements or been eaten by wolves.*

I think of us mortals, and the futility of our existence, the lostness with which we would go through our days without the promise of eternal life and the presence of Jesus Christ now.

I think of how God gave everything for us - his very life - so that we could experience his close and intimate presence. Redeems means "bought back". God literally bought us back - redeemed us - with his own life.

Let's give thanks to God!

Thank you God for my benefits package in you! Thank you that you have redeemed my life and rescued me through your death on the cross!

*Part of your benefits package as a Christian is that **You have a God - the God of all creation - who deeply loves and cares for you as if you were the only one.** Scripture tells us that every hair of your head is numbered. Who knows how many hairs are on their heads? God knows! It tells us in scripture that every day you live was formed for you since the beginning of time. That God like a parent watches over you with deep love and kindness, and gives you every day, tender mercies from his heart.*

Let's give thanks to God!

Thank you God for my benefits package in you! Thank you that you are merciful and kind, watching over every detail of my life with great interest and everlasting love.

And finally, part of your benefits package is **You have a God who feeds you with good things - satisfies you- and renews your youth so that you can soar like an eagle.**

What a great image for a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

If you ever have seen an eagle, they love to ride the currents of the wind. They love to soar. They aren't flapping really hard on their own efforts to keep them air born.

Rather, they are paying attention to the air currents, the movement of the wind, and they are catching those currents at just the right time, allowing themselves to be lifted up, so that they can go higher and higher.

This is an image of dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit given to us-We are called to soar, not flap. Rejoice, not grumble. Be grateful, not worry. Trust and not despair. And as we learn to depend on him, our youth will be renewed...we will be lifted up, up, up like the eagle on the currents of his amazing grace.

Let's give thanks to God!

Thank you God for my benefits package in you! Thank you that you feed me with good things, restoring my soul, so that I can soar like the eagle!

Not a bad benefits package!

Forget not those benefits! Thank God for them everyday! Know that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. And be grateful this Thanksgiving for Him! Amen

