



Session 1 Two Keys for Living in the Power of the Gospel – Ps.103:1-2

I. EXPERIENCE THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF CHRIST’S POWER

- A. The same mighty power that “raised Jesus Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places” is the same power that resides in your spirit as a born again believer and is available to everyone who chooses to believe. (Eph. 1:20-21) The power of hell could not keep Jesus in the grave, and the power of hell could not keep you spiritually dead, living in the kingdom of darkness. This is the good news of the gospel of Christ for everyone who believes!

Ephesians 1:18-20 ... that you may know... 19 what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ...

- B. Throughout your life on an ongoing basis, God desires that you continue to know experientially "the exceeding greatness of His power" that is able to save you to the uttermost, so that you can fulfill God's plan, His Word and His will, for your life.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him...

- C. What you cannot achieve no matter how hard you try, God wants you to remember that through the work of the cross Christ has already done it for you. "It is finished!" John 19:30 Now, you can live in the power of the gospel of God's grace.

2 Cor. 6:2 Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- D. If this is true that mankind can live “now” in the power and the victory of the cross, why is it not happening? Because on Easter millions of people did not even know what happened.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?...

- E. Those who do know, those who profess to be Christians, often don't walk in the reality of its power, because they do not truly understand the greatness of their salvation as revealed in Psalm 103 and other places throughout scripture. Therefore, they neglect it.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?

II. PSALM 103 REFLECTS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO YOUR SALVATION

2 Keys - “Bless the Lord and Forget Not All His Benefits” Ps. 103:1-2

- A. From Calvary's hill where Christ's blood was shed, a cry was heard from God's heart which reverberated throughout all the ages. In Psalm 103 King David's heart picks up on this cry, and he passionately responds by saying to his own soul:

***Psalm 103:1-2 Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.***

B. KEY - DON'T FORGET ALL HIS BENEFITS

1. God will never forget what His Son Jesus Christ accomplished for you. And, God desires that you will not forget the salvation accomplished by His Son Jesus Christ.
2. Because you live in history on the side of the cross, where Jesus' sacrificial blood has been shed on the Calvary's hill, you are now given access by faith to God's grace - to experiencing the full measure of His benefits.

Romans 5:2 ... Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand ...

- C. In our Psalm 103 series entitled "Living in the Power of the Gospel" you will not only gain a greater understanding of the greatness of your salvation, "all its benefits," but you will gain a greater understanding of how you can position your own heart before God to live in its reality.
- D. Although the language used in Psalm 103 and Psalm 1 are different, they both highlight these same two core truths for positioning your heart before the Lord.

Two Keys	Psalm 103: 2	Psalm 1:2
Praise, Thank, Enjoy God	<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul</i>	<i>Delights in the Lord</i>
Remember God	<i>And forget not all His benefits</i>	<i>Meditates in God's Word day and night</i>

E. KEY - BLESS THE LORD

Your proper response to God's great love for you as exemplified through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ on your behalf for your salvation and to all the benefits that your salvation gives to you as a free gift is to bless the Lord.

III. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR YOUR SALVATION

- A. Why is the series on Psalm 103, a sung prayer from the Old Testament, called "Living in the Power of the Gospel"? Because Psalm 103 declares the core realities of the "The Gospel of Christ," and it gives two essential activities you can actually do to live by faith in the "Power of the Gospel," which is God's grace.

- B. Living in the power of the gospel is described by the apostle Paul in the following verses:

Romans 1:16 ... the gospel of Christ ... is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...

1 Cor. 1:18 For the message of the cross ... to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Acts 20:24 ... to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

1. These 3 phrases express what Jesus' substitutionary death, resurrection, and ascension accomplished for the salvation of mankind – for you and I. (1 Cor. 15:3-8)
2. "The gospel of Christ," "the message of the cross," = "THE POWER OF GOD".

- C. What is the purpose of God’s power brought to us through the gospel of Christ or the message of the cross? The purpose is to release the effects of salvation, God’s great grace, into our lives and into the world.

IV. YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST

Key - Psalm 103:2 “Forget not ALL - His benefits”

- A. Salvation is an all-inclusive word. It comes from a Hebrew word which is translated as salvation (eternal salvation), help, healing, deliverance, save, saving, prosperity, victory, etc.

- B. SALVATION = JESUS

In the Psalms, the Hebrew word for salvation is “Yeshuah,” which is the Hebrew name for Jesus.

Luke 2:29-30 Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation.

Matthew 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

- C. THE CORE BENEFITS OF YOUR SALVATION in Jesus Christ are listed in Psalm 103:3-5.

Core Benefits	Psalm 103:3-5
Forgiveness	³ Who forgives all your iniquities,
Healing	Who heals all your diseases,
Redemption	⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction,
Crown	Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
Satisfaction	⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
Renewal	So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

- D. Very few people experience these salvation benefits.

1. These salvation benefits are not commonly preached or taught. Therefore, many people don’t know what their rights and privileges are as a born again believer.

Rom. 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. If they have been taught, not all have obeyed the gospel, as stated by Romans 10:16. Believing is an act of obedience to the gospel message.

Romans 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”

- E. The benefits of salvation is for “EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.” Believing is your positive response to what God has already provided for your salvation through the gospel of Christ, the gospel of the grace of God

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

1. BELIEVE - The word “believes” in Romans 1:16 is a present participle that expresses the idea of a continuous and repeated action. If you want to experience the power of the gospel in your life as expressed by the “all-inclusive” benefits of Psalm 103 in an ongoing way, you need to keep on believing.

Col. 1:23 ... if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel...

2. EVERYONE - Everyone means that God does not pick and choose who will receive the salvation He has provided. Rather each person, gets to choose whether they will believe God’s report of what Jesus Christ has done through the cross.

Romans 10:16-17 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- F. GRACE and FAITH - You must always remember that you receive God’s grace through faith. Both grace and faith are necessary for your salvation.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

1. Faith is responding to what God has done for you through “the gospel of Christ” – the work of the cross. “Blessing the Lord” and “forgetting not all His benefits” are involved in the faith process, but this does not make God do anything for you.
2. You receive all the salvation benefits as a gift from God. G-R-A-C-E is God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense. (Riches = Benefits) You could never earn any of the benefits that are included in God’s salvation for you.

V. THREE STAGES OF YOUR GREAT SALVATION

- A. When Paul is talking about the gospel of Christ being the power of God for your salvation in Romans 1:16, he is talking about the past, present, and future implications of it. You were saved; you are being saved; and you will be saved.

- B. Past Tense Salvation – Justification (Righteousness)

1. The moment that you invited Jesus Christ into your heart to dwell a miracle took place.
Cor. 5:17,21 ...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 21... that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. First, the old things passed away. Your old sin darkened nature, your old spirit man, was completely done away with.
3. Second, you were made you a new creation in Christ. The main thing that is new is your spirit man. You were made 100% “righteous” – “justified” - “just-as-if-I’d” never sinned.

- C. Present Tense Salvation – Sanctification

1. Because the fulness of the Godhead is dwelling in you through the Holy Spirit (1 Jn. 2:27), you are no longer powerless over sin, sickness, the devil, and the kingdom of darkness.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Romans 8:11 He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2. You can experience the exceeding greatness of God's power every day, in every part of your being, and in every situation as you choose to walk by faith in Christ and not by sight.

1 Thes. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. You can release the power of God wherever you go.

John 14:12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

D. Future Tense Salvation – Glorification

This is referring to the age to come, where you will live in the new Jerusalem in your resurrected body. (Rom. 5:9; Rom. 8:29-30)

VI. THE GREAT EXCHANGE OF THE CROSS

- A. "Forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103: 2), echoes the cry of Jesus' heart at the last supper when He said, "Do this in remembrance of Me". (1 Cor. 11:24-25). When taking communion, you are called to remember, to not forget any of your salvation benefits.
- B. See "The Great Exchange of the Cross". Copies of this is on CHR's website under "Resources – Prayer."
 1. Look at the list of all the benefits of your salvation on this list.
 2. Ask yourself what area of your life are you desiring to see God's salvation manifested.
 3. Engage your mouth and heart in that particular exchange of the cross as listed on the handout. (You may want to do this for every exchange, which will help you to "forget not all His benefits.)
 4. Take communion. Use the bible passage at the bottom of this handout to do so.

VII. HOMEWORK

- A. Meditate, memorize, pray, and declare Psalm 103:1-5.

If you memorize 4 verses each week by the end of Psalm 103, you will have memorized all 22 verses.

- B. Sing Psalm 103
- C. "The Great Exchange of the Cross" handout.