

Living Debt Free (Part 2)

Review

Psalm 103:8-12

- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Verse 11- is conditional. His love is great “for those who fear him”. What if you don’t fear the Lord?

Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸ *When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." ²⁰ *Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, **so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.**" ²¹ *The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.***

The purpose of fearing God was to keep them from sinning. Fear is a good thing if it keeps us from sinning!

Psalm 86:1-7

- ¹ *Hear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.*
- ² *Guard my life, for I am devoted to you.
You are my God; save your servant
who trusts in you.*
- ³ *Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I call to you all day long.*
- ⁴ *Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul*
- ⁵ *You are forgiving and good, O Lord,
abounding in love to all who call to you.*
- ⁶ *Hear my prayer, O LORD;
listen to my cry for mercy.*
- ⁷ *In the day of my trouble I will call to you,
for you will answer me.*

Verse 5 is conditional. The Lord, who is forgiving and good, abounds in love TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIM. Again, we must ask ourselves, “What if we don’t call on him?”

Luke 6:37

³⁷ *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

We Sin in our conscious

1 John 3:18-23

¹⁸ *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*
¹⁹ *This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

²¹*Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God*
²²*and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do*
what pleases him. ²³*And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son,*
Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

Verse 21-22 also ties in to what we saw last time in **Psalm 66:18**

¹⁸*If I regard wickedness in my heart,*
The Lord will not hear;

Hebrews 10:22; 13:18

²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

¹⁸Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

Without holiness it is impossible to see the Lord?

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴*Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

Colossians 3:12-14

¹²*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.* ¹³*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* ¹⁴*And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Stephen

Acts 6:8-15

⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7:51-60

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵²Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

Christ

Christ is the ultimate example of forgiveness

Luke 23:34

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Isaiah 53:7

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.