**Remember, Realize, Relish and Receive** John E Brown

Psalm 103:1-22 January 13, 2019

Psalm 51:5-7

* What is your mind set, your heart posture as you enter a new year? There are a bevy of undesirable issues and happenings in the world around us that could fill us with anxiety, concern and fear about the days ahead. I think the Bible provides us with the most dependable and empowering outlook to enter the New Year.
  + “Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.” **Psalm 103:1-5 NASB**
* We need to be mindful of all God has done for us and remember who He truly is to us. (verse 1-5)
  + “Bless the Lord O my soul: and all that is deepest within me, bless His holy name…” verse 1 APMC
  + Deeper than just my thoughts and feelings… From the essence of my heart.
* “Behold, I was brought forth in [a state of] iniquity; my mother was sinful who conceived me [and I too am sinful].Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart.Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean [ceremonially]; wash me, and I shall [in reality] be whiter than snow.” **Psalm 51:1-7 APMC**
  + Lord, let me carry in my inmost heart and remember the reality of who you are there.
* “O my soul, bless God.  
      From head to toe, I’ll bless His holy name!  
  O my soul, bless God,  
      don’t forget a single blessing!

He forgives your sins—every one.

He heals your diseases—every one.  
He redeems you from hell—saves your life!

He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown.  
He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal.  
He renews your youth—you’re always young in his presence.” **Psalm 103:2-5 MSG**

* + He forgives us, He heals us, He redeems us and he renews our youth!
    - …”You are always young in His presence.”
  + Think of Joshua and Caleb and the strength and might they had at 80 years old.
  + They had not discovered the Fountain of Youth… They were invigorated by the Founder of Life!
* We need to realize and relish all that he has done and is doing in and among us now and the amazing effect it is to have on our lives.
  + “The Lord performs righteous deeds  
    And judgments for all who are oppressed.  
    He made known His ways to Moses,  
    His acts to the sons of Israel.  
    The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
    Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

He will not always strive *with us*,  
Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.  
Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,  
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.  
For He Himself knows our frame;  
He is mindful that we are *but* dust.” **Psalm 103:6-14 NASB**

* + He still works righteousness and justice for people… Not just ‘fairness.’
  + He showed Moses His ‘ways’ and His acts to the sons of Israel… You can know Him closer, deeper and increasingly more intimately… There is no ‘limit.’
  + He lists some of the ways you can know Him.
    - “God is sheer mercy and grace;  
          not easily angered, he’s rich in love.  
      He doesn’t endlessly nag and scold,  
          nor hold grudges forever.  
      He doesn’t treat us as our sins deserve,  
          nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.  
      As high as heaven is over the earth,  
          so strong is his love to those who fear him.  
      And as far as sunrise is from sunset,  
          he has separated us from our sins.  
      As parents feel for their children,  
          God feels for those who fear him.  
      He knows us inside and out,  
          keeps in mind that we’re made of mud.” **Psalm 103:8-14 MSG**
  + Walking in the reality of all He is and wants to be to us and all He has for us is a tremendous way to enter a new season.
  + He knows what we are like and is so desirous of us knowing Him and becoming like Him!
  + He is mindful of our ‘frame’… And of the ‘picture that fills the frame’! (verse 14) (Mud Huts!)
* “As for man, his days are like grass;  
  As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.  
  When the wind has passed over it, it is no more,  
  And its place acknowledges it no longer.  
  But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,  
  And His righteousness to children’s children,  
  To those who keep His covenant  
  And remember His precepts to do them.” **Psalm 103:15-18 NASB**
* “Men and women don’t live very long;  
      like wildflowers they spring up and blossom,  
  But a storm snuffs them out just as quickly,  
      leaving nothing to show they were here.  
  God’s love, though, is ever and always,  
      eternally present to all who fear him,  
  Making everything right for them and their children  
      as they follow his Covenant ways  
      and remember to do whatever he said.” **Psalm 103:15-18 MSG**
  + We can move on into the future knowing that “His loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him and His righteousness is to children’s children…” Verse 17 AMPC
* “The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,  
  And His sovereignty rules over all.  
  Bless the Lord, you His angels,  
  Mighty in strength, who perform His word,  
  Obeying the voice of His word!  
  Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,  
  You who serve Him, doing His will.  
  Bless the Lord, all you works of His,  
  In all places of His dominion;  
  Bless the Lord, O my soul!” **Psalm 103:19-22 NASB**
  + The Lord is on the throne and His kingdom rules over all.
    - …”The Lord has made the heavens His throne, from there He rules over everything.” Verse 19 NLT
  + God dispatches angles to assist us.
    - His angles are “mighty in strength.”
    - They perform His word.
    - They obey the ‘voice of His word, they hearken to the voice of His word.’
    - They are His ministers and messengers who serve according to His will and pleasure. (See Psa 104:4, Heb 1;13-14)
    - God’s angles are commissioned to help us on our journey and we need to understand, welcome and receive this help from heaven.
    - “Angels mean messengers and ministers. Their function is to execute the plan of divine providence, even in earthly things.” Thomas Aquimas
    - “Angels have a much more important place in the Bible than the devil and his demons.” Billy Graham