

4-The Ways of God

10/1/23

INTRO:

I. → Psalms 103:7-17

*7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the children of Israel:*

*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.*

→ *13 As a father has **compassion** on his children,
so the Lord has **compassion** on those who fear him;*

*14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.*

→ *15 The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;*

*16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.*

→ *17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's **love** is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children.*

II. Exodus 33:13

*And now if I have found grace in your eyes, **show me now your ways**, so that I may know you and find grace in your eyes.*

BODY:

I. A God of Compassion

*13 As a father has **compassion** on his children,*

so the Lord has **compassion** on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

A. From the very beginning He has been a God of compassion.

1) Heb (*rachum*) compassionate, 13x always of God

2) **Exodus 34:5-7**

Then Yahweh came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, YHWH. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "YHWH, YHWH, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

3) **MARCION OF SINOPE—GOD AND DEMIURGE**

B. We have a Savior who understands our weakness.

1) **Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

2) **ENGINEERS REQUIRED TO DO MAINTENANCE 10 YEARS**

3) **PAUL GREER PLANNING TO REDEPLOY**

II. **A God of Grace**

*9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.*

A. By the grace of God we do not get what we deserve.

1) Heb (*chanuwn*) gracious, 13x always of God

2) **Exodus 33:19**

And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, Yahweh, in your presence. I will have grace on whom I will have grace, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

3) BY THE GRACE OF GOD GOES JOHN BRADFORD

B. Without the grace of God we would never have survived.

1) **Ephesians 2:8-10**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

2) BOAT CAPTAIN TURNING OFF MY AIR

III. A God of Abundant Love

*17 But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's **love** is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children.*

Heb (*rab checed*) abounding in love

A. Every generation needs a fresh revelation of the love of God.

1) **Luke 1:46-50**

*"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . .
His **mercy** extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation."*

2) Grk (*éleos*) compassion, mercy (from LXX)

3) PASSION OF THE CHRIST—LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

B. Love is more than an emotion, it grows deeper with time.

1) **Ephesians 3:17-18**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

2) 28TH ANNIVERSARY