

What it Means to Bless the Lord by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (Psalm 103:1)

The psalm begins and ends with the psalmist preaching to his soul to bless the Lord — “Bless the Lord, O my soul” — and preaching to the angels and the hosts of heaven and the works of God’s hands that they should do the same.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!
Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!
(Psalm 103:20–22)

The psalm is overwhelmingly focused on blessing the Lord. What does it mean to bless the Lord?

It means to speak well of his greatness and goodness — and really mean it from the depths of your soul.

What David is doing in the first and last verses of this psalm, when he says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul,” is saying that authentic speaking about God’s goodness and greatness must come from the soul.

Blessing God with the mouth without the soul would be hypocrisy. Jesus said, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me” (Matthew 15:8). David knows that danger, and he is preaching to himself. He is telling his soul not to let this happen.

“Come, soul, look at the greatness and goodness of God. Join my mouth, and let us bless the Lord with our whole being. Soul, we are not going to be a hypocrite!”



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*Loving God
one another
and the world
through the gospel
of Jesus Christ*

August 19, 2018

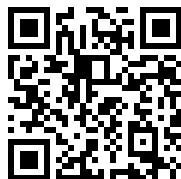
**Blessed are
those whose
STRENGTH
is in You**

Psalm 84:5

Events

TODAY
Paul Billings Report 5:30 PM
Fellowship Picnic 7 PM
9/25-9/29 Directory
Photographs
10/6 Annual Church Picnic
2-9 PM

Give



**Upcoming
Events**



Pastors

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
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**Traducción simultanea
al español disponible en
servicios de AM y PM**

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Stephen Byrd
The Gospel Song

(Sing 3 x's) Holy God, in love, became perfect Man to bear my blame.
On the cross He took my sin. By His death I live again.

Text: Drew Jones Music: Bob Kauflin © 2002 Sovereign Grace Praise Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(repeat with few singing "descant")

Text: Thomas Ken Music: Jimmy Owens © 1972 LEXICON MUSIC Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-17, page 895

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

#699 'Tis So Sweet

Preparatory

Come All Ye Pining

Lord, we adore thy boundless grace, the heights and depths unknown
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace in thy beloved Son

(Chorus) Come, all ye pining, hungry poor the Saviour's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest

O wondrous gifts of love divine dear Source of every good
Jesus, in thee what glories shine how rich thy flowing blood

(Chorus)

Here shall your numerous wants receive, a free, a full supply
He has unmeasured bliss to give and joys that never die

(Chorus)

Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest

Words & Music by Anne Steele
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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice
For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed
Thy Name, O Jesus be forever blessed
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock their fortress and their might
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers faithful, true and bold
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day
The saints triumphant rise in bright array
The King of glory passes on His way
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds from ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: William How Music: Christopher Miner ©1997 Christopher Miner Music Public Domain

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32, page 72

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

#547 My Jesus I Love

Thee

Preparatory

#705 Marvelous Grace

Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston