

Devotion for Lent 4

Psalm 107:1-16

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this—those He redeemed from the hand of the foe.

Those He gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.

They were hungry and thirsty and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains,
for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.

Therefore, He subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and He saved them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Ephesians 2:1-22

We are His workmanship

How were we dead in our sins and trespasses?

What motivated God to make us alive?

How does God express His grace in our lives?

John 3:1-36

Jesus expresses the truth of God's love for the world

Why should God love the world so much that He gave His Son?

Why is love the most amazing thing about God?

How are people born again?

“God’s Amazing Love”

What is the most amazing thing about God? There are so many to choose, a person would quickly run out of fingers and toes trying to count them. God is so vast that He surrounds the universe. Yet He can make Himself so small that He is present in the smallest sub-atomic particles. The Psalmist asked, “*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven you are there! If I make my bed in the depths you are there!*” God sees just as clearly in the dark, as in the light of day. A person could spend eternity contemplating the nature of God and not exhaust the possibilities. It’s hard to set one aspect of God as the most amazing.

God is amazing in the totality of His being. But from our perspective, as sinful humans living in a world broken by sin, the most amazing thing about God is His love. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes the human condition under sin as a spiritual death and active rebellion against God. He says that before Christ came into our lives, we “*were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*” Despite human sin, God loves the world. Despite our sin, God loves us! Because of our sin, God sent His Son into the world to save us from their sad and deadly effects. God sent His Son into our hearts, so that rather than children of wrath we would become the children of God.

God so loved the world that He gave His Son to be born into the world, to save the world from eternal death, by bearing the sin of the world on the cross. God loves you and me and so He gave Jesus to be born into our hearts through the working of the Holy Spirit, so that we would be born again as His children through faith in His name. In Jesus, God joined Himself to our humanity, so that by His sinless life and sacrificial death, He would draw us to Himself in forgiveness in time; and bring us fully into His presence in the resurrection to life everlasting! That's more than amazing. That's breathtaking!

“AMAZING GRACE” (Public Domain)

**Amazing Grace! How Sweet the sound. That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!**

**The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe so far, His grace will see me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.**

Prayer

Holy Father in heaven, we stand in awe of your amazing love expressed in the giving of Jesus to share our humanity in the world and to bear our sin on the cross. We give thanks for your grace in our lives that by the word and through the working of the Holy Spirit, you have given us the rebirth as children through faith in Jesus. Empower us by your Holy Spirit that we may live in your love each day and abide in your grace, until we receive the fullness of rebirth in our share of Christ's resurrection to a new and eternal life. In Jesus' Name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction

Ephesians 3:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

What has God prepared that we should walk in?

King Solomon had many children which daughter is named in the bible?

What foundation is the household of God built on?

Answers to last week's quiz

A discerning mind. AKA Wisdom. (1 Kings 3:9)

Riches and honour. (1 Kings 3:13)

“There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)

