Intro Feb 23

Leviticus states BE HOLY, your God is HOLY.

If you have to correct anyone, show no hatred toward them.

Love your ‘neighbor’ as you love yourself.

(You may remember Jesus quotes this “Love your neighbor as yourself” to the Pharisees.)

The PSALM recounts how God, like a loving Father, constantly forgives all our transgressions.

So, what should WE, YOU and I, do?

Paul in 1 CORINTHIANS shows that he studied under Gamaliel, the most famous rabbi of his time, to become a Rabbi. He takes two ideas of the OT and applies them for the People of Corinth.

Paul says: #point 1 The Temple

You are God’s Temple! As surely as HE dwelt with is people in Herod’s Big, Gold-covered one in Jerusalem. Why? Because God dwells in YOU. Then doesn’t HE dwell in every Person? So do not mistreat God’s Temple, which is that other person. Don’t ask: How will this help ME? Don’t rely on HUMAN wisdom, which too often is Foolishness and FOLLY. You all ‘belong to XT’, That gives you all true value.

Paul references the theme that HUMAN Wisdom is pretty much ‘empty wind’. [Job]

---for it is written: *God catches the wise in their own ruses, {from JOB 5:13}*

*{5:13 He traps the crafty in the snare of their own shrewdness, turns subtle counselors to idiots.}*

 #point 2 HUMAN Wisdom is just empty air; not SOLID

The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, **they are vain**. [this next translation is from the Jerusalem Bible] PSALM 94:11 . . . *God knows exactly how men think, how their thoughts are a* ***puff of wind****.* Which do you like?

The point Paul is making is: the Greeks valued the human ability to THINK and argue, but human ‘thinking’, human *wisdom*, is pretty much worthless without GOD. Xt has shown God’s thinking even clearer for us than the OT did.

The GOSPEL says “You do this to me, I’ll do that to you”—the old way—isn’t good enough. I, the Messiah have come. I expect you to be better than keeping things *equal.* Keeping things “even” is not good enough. Tolerating your enemies is not enough. ***Love them. \*\*That is, help them to be better, hope good things come to them, have concern for their well-being.*** WHY? YOU are Children of God; THEY are also His Children. God loves those who don’t always ‘love’ Him back. We are called to follow the example our heavenly Father sets for us—His Children!

(MATT:5) . . . be children of your heavenly Father,

 **for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,** {Note the Parallelism}

 ***and causes rain to fall on the* just and the unjust.**

***God loves even the BAD characters. If you want to imitate God, do the same. Love both those others consider “good”—even include those seen by many as “bad”.***

Ideas pretty easy to understand—but awfully hard to act out in life.

 VIRTUE of Love / EMOTION of Love

**\*\* referring to this idea—the meaning of the word LOVE**, St. Thomas Aquinas said: the VIRTUE of love is to want what is GOOD for another. The *emotion* of love is that warm fuzzy feeling. You feel it for a girlfriend, mother, cute little baby. The warmth you feel being with your best friend, seeing a kid try to do something new, recalling all the good times you spent with your now-old-and-frail grandma. That is the EMOTION love.

You don’t have to feel that warmth, that emotion, to WANT “the GOOD” for another person. That is the VIRTUE love. That is Thomas’ point. It is also Christ’s Gospel Message. And Paul’s.

 More on PSALM 103

Matt Redman wrote a wonderful popular “Praise Song” *10,000 reasons*. AND. . . .

PS 103 is a Psalm used by Orthodox Jews in their morning prayer!

Bless the Lord, O my soul. From FirstThings Magazine

<https://www.firstthings.com/article/2018/04/bless-the-lord-o-my-soul>

 The woman, remembering her Dad: [Here are a few lines, the rest are in the article.]

*Borkhi nafshi es Adonai.* His voice sails out toward me. “Bless the Lord, O my soul!”

He pauses, and his voice rises. *Adonai elohai godalti meod. Hod vehodor lovoshto oteh ohr kasalmoh noteh shomayim kayrioh.* “O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.”

I translate for you, but what I understood was in his exuberant spirit: *Come! Come! The day is begun.*

*Some versions of PS 103; 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman*

This Evangelical site shows the various places in the Bible (other PS and other OT and NT books) that express the various ideas in the song: 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman. PS 103 lists FIVE REASONS, but the song exaggerates to 10,000 for effect. Key point-- The song is authentically Biblical. This site also illustrates how common Themes are repeated throughout both OT and NT.

(site) https://www.thebereantest.com/matt-redman-10000-reasons-bless-the-lord

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 Each of these versions highlights another way of listening to the song.

This vid is an instrumental no words, but outstanding, just to watch and meditate.

Black violinist Demola and Black cellist play *10,000 reasons**.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy4NPdeOgas

young man guitar, girl violin; ordinary kids in an ordinary place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyMo3Unmbho>

FOUR young boys at home w mom, who writes: *We have been neglecting our "Family Jam" sessions...my oldest was on my case this morning that we get back to it. This - "Bless the Lord O My Soul" by Matt Redman was the first song they wanted to do—and to my knowledge, the first time we have done this song on our own. I was so tickled when Benjamin added the tin whistle that I grabbed the camera. Forgive me for dominating the vocals. I was holding the camera and closer to the mic.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6dHFM9Z634

!! played on a Chinese instrument! a Chinese Zither.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkYQRtd3a7s

Pan flute version

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o16NcbbTx3g

In sign language! Kids signing the song in am Emmanuel Mennonite Church, who knows where it is?! I couldn’t find *Which* Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htzdpG4O3kk