

**Open Gift 3 – Forgiveness - he will save his people from their sins.**

**- Today's passage: Psalm 103:10-14 – <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; <sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

- Psalm 103-of David-famous slayer of Goliath, Warrior, King of Israel, and a man after God's own heart. A Psalm of praise! Forgiveness is praiseworthy!

**<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

- Sin is real! God takes seriously! It has consequences! It's obvious! Gal 5:19-21.

- What is the consequence of sin?... Death! Sin = Death.

- Rom 3:23-we ALL sin and fall short of the glory of God.

- Sin separates us from a perfectly Holy God – it must be forgiven to be redeemed.

- God owes us nothing! Our sins and iniquities deserve death. Salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ was the ultimate display of forgiveness!

- Forgiveness not a notion or saying sorry-it's a display of true agape love.

**<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;**

- God's love is so big he provided a way for those who didn't or don't fear Him yet: Rom 5:8- God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- True forgiveness is rooted & grounded in the love that comes from the Father, with the power of His Spirit. This enables us to faithfully welcome Christ to dwell in our hearts. It widens our capacity to love – Ephesians 3:14-19

- True forgiveness not possible without the love of Christ, not a love we manufacture. We are incapable of doing that on our own anyway!

**<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

- Great peace and redemption in true forgiveness.

- Who have you not forgiven?... Who has not forgiven you?... What if we all truly forgave one another? What if we don't?... Pride. "I'm offended!"

Mt. 6: 14-15: if we forgive other people when they sin against us, God will also forgive us. But if we don't forgive others their sins, God won't forgive our sins.

- Forgive AND forget – Impossible? No. Difficult? Yes. Try? Yes. Unforgiveness, bitterness, grudges like eating poison expecting other person to die.

- Heb 8/Jer 31- God will forgive our wickedness-*remember our sins no more*

- Must be willing to forgive ourselves as well.

**<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; <sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

- A loving and compassionate father love and forgives his child.

- Are you a child of God? How can you know?

- Jesus came to that which was his own, but his own didn't receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, *he gave the right to become children of God*— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. – John 1:11-13

- God forgives because He loves. He loves because He is love. He loves you and wants you to be His child. He wants to forgive you of your past and give you a new future. Will you let him?