JM Jason Mayfield

SERMON OUTLINE FOR PASTORS

THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST

Five Benefits That Flow from the Finished Work of Jesus

> Jesus paid the price for more than a ticket to heaven. Through His finished work, God forgives, heals, redeems, crowns and satisfies, and Psalm 103 commands us not to forget His benefits.

MAIN TEXT
Psalm 103:1-5

FIRST PREACHED
August 24, 2025

SERIES
We're Building Everything on Jesus, Week 3 of 4

BY
Pastor Jason Mayfield

AT A GLANCE

THE MESSAGE

1. He forgives all your iniquity: Jesus reaches into the deep intentions of the heart, not just surface behavior, and removes all condemnation.
2. He heals all your diseases: healing is covenant provision, not a rare bonus, and it can come instantly, gradually through recovery, or through the wisdom that comes with salvation.
3. He redeems your life from the pit: God pulls people out of dysfunction and improves their quality of life.
4. He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy: God changes your reputation, and a great name gives you the influence to actually change other people's lives.
5. He satisfies you with good: God wants his people increased and prospering, supernaturally and as the natural outcome of the first four benefits.
6. The result of all five is renewed youth, strength, and vitality, pictured in the eagle of verse 5.



WATCH IT PREACHED

youtu.be/ss7fA1wyWuw



READ THE ARTICLE

jasonmayfield.com/messages/the-benefits-of-christ

PREACHING NOTES

Before You Preach

This is the third message in a four-week series on building everything on Jesus. The week before ended on Ephesians 2:8 and one line: my belief releases His supply. This message unpacks what that supply is, using the five benefits listed in Psalm 103:3-5.

Say up front that this is "the brochure, not the full course." Each benefit could be its own series. Move quickly through the five, give each one something to hold on to, and save your energy for the eagle at the end.

Expect pushback from the "it ain't all about health and wealth" crowd, and address it early and with a smile. The psalm itself tells us to remember these benefits, so drawing attention to them is obedience, not selfishness.

Introduction

> **PSALM 103:1-5** ESV
>
> Of David. [1] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! [2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, [3] who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, [4] who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, [5] who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

If that sounds good to you, look at your neighbor and say, "That sounds pretty good to me."

Last week ended with this verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). When I put my faith in the finished work of Jesus, by grace, Jesus releases everything I need.

Simply said: my belief releases His supply. Have the congregation say it together.

Today: **the benefits of Christ.**

Illustration: the glasses. I own a lot of glasses, and I rotate through them. It started when we served on staff at a church in Michigan. Our benefit package covered optical, so I went to see "the eye man" and picked up several pairs. One day another pastor on staff asked me how I could afford all those glasses, because getting your eyes checked is expensive. I told him it was part of our benefit package. He had no idea. He had never gone to the optometrist, because he did not know the benefit was his. The only difference between him being blind as a bat and me having options was that I knew the benefits.

When you know the benefits, you can tap into everything the Lord has for you. Jesus didn't just pay the price for you to go to heaven. He paid the price for you to be fully righteous and counted as a son of God Almighty, bringing with it full rights and privileges.

THE PRINCIPLE

> **ROMANS 8:32 ESV**
>
> 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

It stands to reason from this verse that if God were to withhold anything from you, it would mean He values it more than His Son. But there is nothing more precious to the Father than His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Since He has already given what He values most, everything else can come into your life as a result of the finished work of Jesus.

Psalm 103 gives us a clean list of five benefits you can trust to flow into your life from that finished work.

A WORD TO THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

Whenever we talk this way, someone says, "Well, brother, it ain't all about health and wealth."

- First, no one said it was *all* about anything.

Illustration: the supplement company. Ashleigh and I once led a training for the sales team of a health supplement company. Inevitably, I started talking about the Bible, and someone in the chat wrote, "It's not about health and wealth." Their job was to sell health supplements. It was exactly about health and wealth.

It is not selfish to draw attention to the benefits that come from serving Jesus. In fact, this psalm commands it: "forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

Here are the five benefits:

- He forgives all your iniquity.
- He heals all your diseases.
- He redeems your life from the pit.
- He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
- He satisfies you with good.

If you're ready to dive in, say, "Let's go!"

1. He Forgives All Your Iniquity

Jesus removes all condemnation.

> **ROMANS 8:1 ESV**
>
> [1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Last week we talked about the fall, and the law, which offered a way to righteousness but ultimately could not deliver it. Then came the cross, which provided full forgiveness for all sin.

Sin and iniquity are not the same.

- **Sin:** doing something wrong.
- **Iniquity:** deeply corrupted thoughts and intentions. It's not just what you do; it's why you do it.

Some sin doesn't come from a very deep place. It's the lust of the flesh. Other sin comes from deep inside you: the pride of life (1 John 2:16). At some point you will be confronted with a deep wickedness inside yourself. You may never slash someone's tires after a hard week, but you could tell me how you'd do it. That's in here. And Jesus reaches all the way down into that and forgives it.

Condemnation is not the same thing as guilt. Guilt is natural and healthy. When you do something wrong, you ought to feel guilty. That's called having a conscience.

Condemnation feels like a final judgment that has disqualified you from the things of God. It gets in front of your actions. It tells you, "You're already a bad person, so go do bad." And when you decide to start praying, reading the Bible or serving at church, it gets in front of that too: "You're not good enough to do that." Ultimately, condemnation keeps you out of the very things that would help you.

But He forgives *all* our iniquity, the most deeply corrupted parts of us. So "let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

2. He Heals All Your Diseases

Here's a promise: if you've got it, God will heal you of it. God wants to turn your physical, emotional and mental situation around.

Healing is part of the covenant inheritance. It is not a rare bonus. It's a basic provision.

Illustration: the elder minister. An older minister once observed that Pentecostals saw so many healings fifty years ago partly because the movement was strong in rural areas where people had no insurance. God healed you, or you didn't get better. Today we pop an Excedrin. But there are still things you cannot get free of unless the Lord touches you, and it is part of the covenant promise that He will.

Set a reasonable expectation for how God heals. Jesus said believers "will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:18). Recover is a process word. We Pentecostals want it now, but some things the Lord starts have to keep growing.

Illustration: the straight teeth. Ashleigh and I knew a man who, as a teenager, had crooked teeth and no money to fix them. An evangelist laid hands on him and prayed, and nothing happened. He was disappointed. The next morning he looked in the mirror, looked again, and his teeth were straight. It took a night, and it was still a divine, powerful miracle.

Healing comes many ways. Wisdom brings healing.

> PROVERBS 4:20-22 ESV
>
> [20] My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. [21] Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. [22] For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). When you give your life to Jesus, you immediately start getting wiser. By that wisdom your life improves, and you begin to sense healing in your body just from better choices. Sometimes the problem isn't genetic. It's the soda you drink for breakfast every morning.

The removal of condemnation can improve your health immediately. Condemnation produces stress that can lead to:

- elevated cortisol, the stress hormone;
- a weakened immune system;
- a higher risk of heart disease, ulcers, migraines, chronic pain and fatigue.

So whether pragmatically or supernaturally, healing is your portion. He mends broken minds, broken hearts and broken bones.

3. He Redeems Your Life from the Pit

God will improve your quality of life.

Illustration: our story. This is Ashleigh's and my testimony. We were both raised in highly dysfunctional homes. That we are not strung out on drugs, addicted to alcohol, broke or in prison is the hand of God on our lives. Ashleigh was downright persecuted in her home. Her mother confronted her about the lifestyle she was living and asked whether Ashleigh believed in that lifestyle or in the Bible. Ashleigh said, "The Bible." Her mother told her, "Pack your stuff." God rescued us out of that, and we have experienced total transformation in our quality of life.

God will pull you out of complete dysfunction.

A word of wisdom to leave with the congregation, not to preach out: **you deserve what you tolerate.**

He will turn your life around and set you in a broad place. Yes, some things have to change, but the psalmist could say, "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places" (Psalm 16:6).

4. He Crowns You with Steadfast Love and Mercy

As you take hold of these benefits, as you get free of condemnation, healing comes into your life and He pulls you out of the pit, **people will take notice, and God will change your reputation.** He will change what comes to mind when people hear your name.

Your reputation has the power to bring positive change to your realm of influence.

> **GENESIS 12:1-3 ESV**
>
> 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to
> the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make
> your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who
> dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

We have boiled this down to a saying: "I'm blessed to be a blessing." I hope you are a blessing, but that is not what the verse says. Go back to verse 2: "I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

The promise to Abraham is that God would bless him, full stop. By virtue of a blessed life, Abraham's name would be made great, and by the power of that great name, a great reputation, he would be a blessing.

Illustration: the meal and the job. You have heard, "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime." Say you meet a homeless man. You can give him money for a meal, or put him up in a hotel for a night's sleep and a shower. That is good, and I hope you would. But there is a difference when you can say, "Hop in the car. I know where to get you work," walk him in, look someone in your community in the face and say, "This is my friend. He needs a job." A meal solves today's need. A job solves future needs. That is the power of a good reputation.

Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, you will become a person of influence and good repute in your sphere.

Look at your neighbor and say, "I'm somebody, and you don't even know it yet!"

5. He Satisfies You with Good

God wants to see His people blessed.

> **PSALM 35:27 ESV**
>
> 27 Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is
> the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!"

Where the ESV reads "welfare," the NASB 1995 reads "prosperity." God wants you to increase: your finances, the peace in your home, your needs met. This is a distinct benefit of the finished work of Jesus

Christ.

Go back to the principle: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). With Him come all good things.

This comes supernaturally. It is not just cause and effect. But even if it were not supernatural, add up the other four benefits: you are free of condemnation, you are healthy, your life is no longer steeped in dysfunction, and you have a good reputation. The outcome of that is very likely to be increase. Even apart from the supernatural, you are set up to prosper. But this is more than math. It is a benefit of the finished work of Jesus Christ.

If you’re grateful that He forgives, heals, redeems, crowns and satisfies, give the Lord praise!

Conclusion

YOUR YOUTH RENEWED

Look at one more thing. Flowing from these five benefits, the psalmist says: “so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Psalm 103:5).

The result of these five benefits is renewed youth:

- strength;
- vitality;
- joy;
- passion.

Get hold of this, and God can give you more energy at 80 than you had at 50, and do more with you at 40 than you did at 20.

Closing story: the eagle. Let me tell you a story from the ancient world. The Greeks and Romans were fascinated with the eagle. They believed it was the bird of the gods. Zeus, the king of their so-called deities, was pictured with an eagle by his side. To them the eagle was more than a majestic bird. It was a symbol of divine authority, power and renewal.

They told a story, a myth, that the eagle was the only creature that could stare directly into the sun. Every other animal had to look away, but the eagle could look into the light without flinching, without blinking and without being blinded.

They said that when an eagle began to feel old and weak, it would fly toward the sun, not away from it. As it soared higher and higher, closer and closer to that burning light, the heat would scorch off the old feathers, burn away the dead skin and melt the grime of time, and the eagle would come back renewed. Strong again. Sharp again. Young again.

We are not talking about the bird of Zeus. We are talking about the benefits of Jesus Christ.

The born-again believer is the only creature on earth who can look directly into the face of the Son of God without flinching.

The light that blinds the world will transform every part of you. The more you put your hope and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the more the impurities of sin, dysfunction, weakness, disease, addiction and regret burn off in His glory. And like the eagle, your youth is renewed.

- He doesn't just save you. He makes you new.
- He doesn't just restore what you lost. He rebuilds you stronger than before.
- He doesn't just bring you out of the pit. He gives you the ability to soar and stay above the fray.

Maybe you are here today and you feel weak. Maybe you feel weary. Maybe you feel beat down by life. Turn your face toward the Son. Put your life in His hands. Trust Him, take Him at His word and believe His promise, and let Him burn away everything that doesn't belong on you.

If you receive this word today, give the Lord praise!



ABOUT

PASTOR JASON MAYFIELD

Pastor Jason Mayfield is the Senior Pastor of Citylight Church in Saraland, Alabama, an author, and the creator of POWER 27. He has given more than 20 years to the local church and helps pastors and ministry leaders lead BIG.

Free outlines, articles and leadership resources:
jasonmayfield.com

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