

## BLESSED IS THE LIFE CROWNED WITH LOVE

[Psalm 103:4](#) “Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.”

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Love creates happiness. A person who loves his or her work is, as a rule, a content person. Blessed and happy the family where love reigns in the home. The children reflect the joy emanating from such a house. However the most important question in life is, “Does God love me?” We are living in His world and we must answer to Him for all the time spent here. His attitude toward us is the only thing that really matters. If God does not love us or is displeased with us, we certainly cannot be happy in this world or in the next.

We are told in our text that God does love us, in fact He crowns or adorns us with His love and kindness and mercies. Many people do not know of this attitude of God toward us, but blessed indeed are those who acknowledge and accept His mercy and kindness toward us and all men.

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### 1. THE CROWN OF THORNS AND THE CROWN OF LOVE

All of God's attributes are very wonderful, but His attribute of love is the most amazing to us. “God is love,” [1 John 4:16](#). He is not just a loving, kind, and good God, He is LOVE itself. Everything in heaven and earth is only a reflection of God's love. God is Love just as He is Omnipotent or Omniscient.

It was God's love to the fallen world which caused Him to send His Son into this world to be our Substitute and Savior. “For God so loved the world, that

he gave his only begotten Son,” [John 3:16](#). Love is the foundation of our whole faith.

It was Jesus’ love which moved Him to come into this world to bear our sins. We know the price He paid to redeem us, He was smitten, spat upon, mocked, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, and forsaken of His Father on the cross. Only LOVE itself could do that for some one else. By Jesus’ crown of thorns, God’s just demands were vicariously expiated, the sinner cleared of guilt.

St. Paul in 2 Cor. 5: 19 very clearly states just that, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.”

Our Psalmist certainly had this in mind also for he says (verse 3 and 12), “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” and “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

103 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.  
6 The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
7 He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
9 He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.  
14 For he knows our frame;<sup>14</sup>  
he remembers that we are dust.  
15 As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
<sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.  
<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
<sup>20</sup> Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice of his word!  
<sup>21</sup> Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!  
<sup>22</sup> Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

It is self-evident that **all** God's children in the Old Testament put their hopes for the forgiveness of sins and salvation in the coming Messiah.

Forgiveness of sins through the crown of thorns is clearly foretold in [Isaiah 53:5](#), "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed." **Is there anything unclear about a passage like this?**

All that Jesus did for us and our salvation is ours by faith in His crown of thorns and holy cross. [John 6:40](#) "This is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life."

God's marvelous love shows itself in all His dealings with us. He does as our text states ;"Crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies." Now we love Him because He first loved us and so our Psalm begins with, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord. O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." This whole Psalm is summarized thus, "An exhortation to bless God for his mercy."

What a blessed life crowned with God's loving-kindness; Then we find peace with God, we have a good conscience, there is a new joy and purpose in life, and a lively hope for the future. With such gifts of God how can anyone be sad or despondent? On the other hand, where the crown of love is missing through unbelief, there can be no joy or hope, no blessings or peace.

May we put our faith and trust in the thorn crowned Jesus, and God will place a crown of love upon our heads.

These two crowns cannot be separated, we cannot have one without the other.

There is another crown associated and connected with the crown of love. What is it?

## 2. THE CROWN OF LOVE AND THE CROWN OF LIFE

We all know what love is but it is hard to define. Love has a strong attraction or desire for someone and seeks to be near the one loved. God's love to us is that way. He loves all people and offers them eternal life through faith in Jesus. The thief on the cross, Peter and Paul, the Jailor at Philippi, and countless other sinners have experienced this universal love of God.



Why does God love us, what does He have in mind, what are His intentions toward us? The Lord is not satisfied with this present arrangement and life, neither are we. **This is not real life, to be apart from God**, to be unable to see Him. “Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee,” is our constant prayer and desire. We long to be closer and nearer to God, and He longs to have us closer to Himself. **That is the nature of love.**

We receive a crown of life with the crown of love. David knew about this (v.17) “But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.”

In the last book of the Bible ([Rev 2:10](#)) Jesus gives us this encouragement, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” In the next chapter He urges us to “Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” ([Rev 3:11](#))

The crown of thorns and the crown of love have as their goals the crown of life. Blessed, then, the man who has the crown of love for he shall be eternally blessed.

Coronation day conjures up visions of grandeur in our minds. The preparations, the pomp, and ceremony impress us with the importance of

the event. But the Lord has a far better crown for us, a crown of surpassing splendor and glory which endureth in all eternity.

The kings and their crowns are disappearing in our age, but we hope that the crown which makes us kings and queens before God will be multiplied among us.

Accept that crown, wear it, sleep with it on, never remove it, for it is the most precious possession in life. With that crown upon our heads we can burst forth in this hymn of praise, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." And with the crown of life upon our heads we shall continue that praise in these words ([Rev.7:12](#)) "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." AMEN

PRAYER. We thank Thee, O holy Trinity, for Thy marvelous love and mercy. We are especially thankful to Thee, Lord Jesus, that Thou hast worn the crown of thorns and carried Thy cross for us. Thou hast crowned us, O Lord, with lovinkindness and tender mercies all the days of our lives. Help us, O Holy Spirit, to hold fast to our crown of life until we see Thee in all Thy glory. To the on true God, Father, Son, and Spirit, be honor and glory, world without end.  
AMEN