



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
One God, Amen.

East to West – A Message of Love

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12)**

The Lord Our Savior

So much has been written and said about our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We've read and heard many words on many topics but how many of us have taken those words and lived them? How many of us have felt the great sacrifice that our Lord Jesus Christ gave us on the cross? While we are in the time of the holy Lent, we ought to contemplate on God's greatest, most beautiful, and most valuable gift He has given us – His life on the cross. This is why I found it prudent to talk about something that we usually don't think enough about and that is God's infinite love for us.

God is love, and if we are to talk about God we must talk about love. If we are to contemplate on God Himself we cannot do it outside the scope of His greatest expression of love to us. That is to say that while we were sinners, God came down to save us like a loving father. For **"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities"** (Isaiah 53:5). Specifically I would like to contemplate with you on Psalm 103 in which the psalmist says **"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us"**.

The Lord Gives Hope

Often times we might feel as though we cannot continue our spiritual struggle because of the tribulations surrounding us. It might become difficult to have faith and hope in God that he can help us and save us from the sin that has enslaved us. The devil's job however is to make us give up all hope on ourselves and in God and believe that we have failed in the past and therefore we will fail in the future. The Holy Spirit talks through the mouth of King David as he says **"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us"**. Our Lord Jesus Christ has taken what is ours and given us what is His. He has changed the form of our humble nature and has given us power over sin. So the next time you feel down or unable to overcome you can ask God to show you just how far the east is from the west as the song goes. When you feel the greatness of what Christ gave us you can say **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;"** (Galat 2:20). You can renew your hope and your will because Christ loved you and saved you.

Praise the Lord, O My Soul

When you realize the greatness of God's gift you will sing with the psalmist and say **"Praise the Lord, O my soul... who forgives all your sins"**. For the Lord has forgiven all our sins and paid for them with His blood. You will sing **"Praise the Lord, O my soul... who crowns you with love and compassion."** for the

Lord has loved us from the beginning so He gave up His life for us. You will sing **“Praise the Lord, O my soul... who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's”** for the Lord satisfies our desires and needs tenderly with all things that are good and profitable for us and renews our life day by day. You will praise the Lord and thank Him endlessly for no words, no actions, nothing we can give or provide can ever begin to repay Him. One drop of His precious blood is worth more than the entire creation and yet he was glad to spill it for us to cleanse us from our sins, to save us from the bondage of the enemy. To bring us back to Him.

God Is Close to Us

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not just our God and our Savior; He is also our Father and big brother. For as the psalm says: **“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him”**. God is telling us that He is close to us – as close as our Father and closer. An earthly father can only dwell with his son but God dwells within us. He doesn't want to leave us for even a moment. He wants to help us, support us, encourage us and provide for us for **“he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust”**. Truly God has loved us not just by words but by deeds shouldn't we do the same?

Remember

Finally, remember everything the Lord has done for us. Remember how He created us. Remember how He protected us and gave us His words. Remember how He came and shed His blood for us. Remember the love He has shown us. Also, remember who you are. Remember that the Lord of heaven and earth loves you. Remember that you are worth a lot to Him. And remember that you belong to Him and that He has shown you just how far the east is from the west.

May God bless us and protect us in His holy name unto the end. Glory be to God forever. Amen.