

Longing for the Glory of God

Psalm 104

Psalm 104 is a heart realignment psalm.

The psalmist exhorts himself to “Bless the Lord, O my soul!”

Does your heart need realignment today?

I. How to Realign Your Heart: Consider at Length God’s Providence.

Psalm 104:1-30

Creation reveals:

- **the greatness of God**
- **the goodness of God**
- **the wisdom of God**

The greatness of God –

“Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great!” (Psalm 104:1)

The goodness of God –

“You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field.” (Psalm 104:10-11)

“You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.” (Psalm 104:14-15)

The wisdom of God –

“O Lord how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.” (Psalm 104:24-26)

“One of the oldest sayings of the ancient church summarizes the essence of the relationship between God and His people: Deus pro nobis. It means “God for us.” That is what the doctrine of providence is all about. It is God’s being for His people. ... no matter what we have to endure in this world as Christians, nothing has the power to sever the relationship we have to a loving and sovereign providence.”

R.C. Sproul

“The providence of God is his constant care for, and his absolute rule over, all creation for his own glory and the good of his people. In his providence, God rules over all things, directs all things, and orchestrates all things to accomplish his purposes. Nothing is left to chance. “

Jerry Bridges

“If our God created the world in wisdom, then we can entrust to him our lives... Since God is our wise creator, he knows what is best for us. He knows what makes us tick. We give ourselves to him in faith and obedience. If we have a longing and ache in our heart that is not fulfilled, we trust him with it. We ask him for what we desire. We plead with him to give us what seems so good and right to us. But if the answer is no, then we bow before his wisdom.”

Tom Schreiner

God also provides for us in creation out of His greatness, goodness and wisdom. He also does in the New Creation.

He gives us Christ.

“When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die, and return to the dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the ground.”

Psalms 104:29-30

“Abraham said, ‘God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’”

Genesis 22:8

“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, **which is in Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**”

Colossians 2:1-3

“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

II. How to Know that Your Heart is Realigned:

Psalms 104:31-35

- **God’s glory is your first priority.**

“May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.”

Psalms 104:31

“The glory of God is why the planet is here. The glory of God is why everything is here. What is God up to in all of this? He is displaying His glory so we can thrill in Him forever. The glory of

God is the central theme of the Bible. Everything that is wrong with the world today is traceable to this one mega-sin – trivializing God.”

Ray Ortlund

- **Praise (not complaining) is your first language.**

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.” Psalm 104:33-34

- **We long that all sin and rebellion would disappear.**

“Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Praise the Lord!”

Psalm 104:35

God’s providence “makes us grateful when things go well and patient when things go against us, prompts us to rest with childlike submission in the guidance of the Lord and at the same time arouses us from our inertia to the highest levels of activity. In all circumstances of life, it gives us good confidence in our faithful God and Father that he will provide whatever we need for body and soul and that he will turn to our good whatever adversity he sends us in this sad world, since he is able to do this as almighty God and desires to do this as a faithful Father.”

Herman Bavinck