

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 • Read Psalm 102:12–17**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does the Psalmist now compare to his own brevity (v12a)? How does He compare? What else is this long (v12b)? What will He yet do (v13a)? To whom? When (v13b–c)? Who else favors her (v14)? To what extent? Whom will the Lord's love for Zion bring, to do what (v15)? What will the Lord build up (v16a) to show what (v16b)? In response to what does the Lord do this building?*

**How does the eternal and glorious Lord respond to the low condition of His people?** Psalm 102:12–17 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord invests the glory of His Name in rebuilding His church.**

vv1–11 overflowed with grief and agony. Now we begin to learn what has him so distraught: the condition of Zion. Zion is need of compassion (v13a) and rebuilding (v16a). This section of the Psalm gives us a window into how grace provokes believers to respond when the church is in a low condition.

**Eternally minded compassion,** v12–14. In v11 the Psalmist had cried out about the brevity of his life, but then turns in v12 to compare this to the eternity of God's existence and praise. Because we are like grass, and the shadows lengthen quickly in the evening of our life, we learn our priorities from Him. Since He favors Zion (v13b), His servants also favor her (v14b).

God has compassion upon His people. "Zion" as a city may be made of stones and dust, but the eternal and uncreated Lord has compassion upon her (translated "mercy" in v13a of NKJ). She may exist in time, but He therefore has set a time for His compassion to be satisfied by showing her mercy. Believers follow Him in fostering deep affection for His church.

**Worldwide desire for glory,** v15–16. How has the Lord chosen to display Himself in His glory (v16b)? By (re)building Zion (v16b). This is how He shows His glory to the nations (v15a) and all the kings of the earth (v15b). Those who love His glory desire that the whole world would see that glory and reverence it. This is a second reason for believers to long for the revival of the church: not just compassion for the church herself but desire for the glory of the Lord of the church.

Do we love His glory? Well, it is His pleasure to be glorified in the building up of His church. So, let us give her our labors and prayers—desiring that the Lord would reform and revive her, and that she would grow in number, in strength, and in purity as she continues to cover the earth.

**Prayer that lays hold of God's character,** v17. God is glorified not just by doing His church good, but by the fact that He does so in response to their prayers. He is the omnipresent God Who can hear in every place and even hears and knows the prayers of His people's hearts. He is the omniscient God Who knows exactly what to do for His people in response to any prayer. He is the omnipotent God Who is able to do all that His wisdom knows to do in answer to prayer. He is the God of all goodness, Who responds to His people's prayers in infinite love.

God is much glorified in our praying to Him and in His answering us. And He has ordained to fulfill His good plans for the church in response to our prayers. Let us, therefore pray, pray, pray! And especially, let us pray for the growth and good of His church!

What are your feelings about the church of the Lord Jesus Christ? How should they improve? Who can help you with this? When/how have you been praying for reformation and revival in the church?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You endure forever, and the praise of Your Name to all generations. It is by Your merciful and powerful building of Your church that You glorify Yourself before all nations of the earth. So, help us by Your Spirit as we call upon Your Name, and hear us and answer unto Your glory in Christ, through Whom we ask it, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP102B "My Days Like Evening's Shade" or TPH102A "LORD, Hear My Prayer for Aid"**

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Psalm 102 verse 12, through 17. These are God's words. But you owe. You always sell endure forever. And the remembrance of your name, to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion. For the time to favor her. Yes, the set time has come. For your servants, take pleasure in her stones.

And show favor to her dust. So, the nations shall fear, the name of yahoo, And all the kings of the earth, your glory. For you always shall build up Zion. He fell up here in his glory. He shall regard the prayer. Of the destitute. And shall not despise Their prayer.

So far the reading of god inspired.

So far the reading of god's inspired and There and twerked. So, in verse 11, With which the first part of the psalm that we heard last week ended. He talks about the Shortness of his life. And how soon he, Will die in my days are like a shadow. That lengthens.

And how brief all our lives are compared to the lords. And so, We see even by that. Not just that. And we are. Sinners, who Sinned and died in our first father, Adam. That is where all our death come from. But we see and are reminded. That everything is about the lord about his glory and his purpose is And so, he makes this comparison.

But you oh, you always shall endure forever. And the remembrance of your name. To all generations. Not just man's chief end, but everything's chief end. Is to glorify god. And so,

He's been expressing this great grief and we haven't even really heard. What? Occasion is what the cause is. His grief. And it turns out as we continue into the psalm,

That his grief is over the low state of the church at the time. And, This love for the church is desire for the church.

There's something that he recognizes is not come. From himself. So, all things are for the lord's glory verse 12 And, Things then serve the lord's purpose. Versus 13 through 15. You will arise and have mercy on zion for the time to favor her. Yes, the set time has come So, he views.

History, as it were from a distance. And he sees this time that is coming, When the set time arrives and the lord. Arises and has mercy on zion, he indoors forever. He is not in distress over the low state of the church. Although we know that the low state of the church, Is.

And, Anthropopathically waves anthropopathic way of speaking. Um, Grieving to god. Anthropomorphic is when you. Talk about god as if he has like arms and legs and so forth. We know that he doesn't, but he created us with them. So that we may understand something about him when he says his eye is upon something very extensive and to do something etc.

Anthropopathic is when we describe god as having emotions. Which are not inherent to God. Uh, but he created us for the motions so that we might understand something about him. And the way he relates to various things. So, So yes, the low state of the church antler-Popathically speaking. Grieves, the lord.

But he is not like the psalmist and despair and in agony. Uh, pain cannot be inflicted. Upon. The living god. And part of the reason is he indoors forever? And the remembrance of his name to all generations. He has always has been. Always will be. And everything is going to be unto.

Is unto his glory and works out onto that end. And so he sees all of time? As a piece. And the set time for restoring the people in whom, he has decided to glorify himself. It's always right before him. And so, as the psalmist prays and sings The spirit brings that future time before the psalmist's eyes.

This is one of the blessings that we have. In the public worship. Um, when we read sing break God's word, That he brings before us. Moments and actions. That are yet future. And everything to him is sort of an adornal present, it's always before it But it's not always before us.

And so, He views. Or he remembers. This future time that is coming in verse 13. And one of the ways that he knows it, Is because god's servants. Love zion love is people zion of course, being a city but being more than a city Being a city that is emblematic.

Of the people upon him. God has set, his electing love to whom, he shows his saving favor Whom he will, ultimately not just forgive and deliver. But sanctify and glorify. And so, he The psalmist identifies that this love for Zion. This love for God's people and since it is identified with the city at the time, they love even her stones.

They love even her dirt. You know, we might think someone was Um, Mentally ill or at least overwhelmed emotion. If they arrived to the place and immediately, Um, You know, sat down and started grabbing heaps of dust and dirt in their hands. Telling the dirt how much they loved them.

We must remember that. Zion here is not just a place, it is identified with the board identified with his people. And this almost is recognizing that that law of came by grace. It is a love that is put in god's people. And what's true people in God's converted people?

Um, that reflect something that comes from the heart of god. Which does? Ought to make each of us, ask the question. Why am i not more like that? Why don't i love God's people. More dearly than i do. And look to the lord. To give us, sophia. To give us.

Don't i love god's people more than i do. And then we look to the lord to give us the help of his holy spirit. That we would love him more. That we would love his people more. And as we do that and as we remember that, we are among those people whom he loves And as we in our moment of despair, Crying out agony.

Over the low state of his people. We realize, oh That love for the church that believers have. That comes from god. What little love we have for the church that causes us to agonize. When it is in the lowest state. That little love that we have. From the church comes from god's infinite, love for the church.

Surely he will deliver. Surely, he will raise her up. Surely he will hear her. Steal her. Surely He will build her. And so that is the lord's priority, indeed. This. That deliverance of Zion this time of showing her mercy and favor. As what brings all the nations to fear your way.

So the nations So fear the name of yahweh and all the kings of the earth, your glory for Yahweh shall build up science. He shall appear. And his glory. And so you have Not just the The glory of. Oh, the lord. As. The purpose of all things, but The building up of the church.

As the lord's priority. In all things. And then his Response to our prayers. Um, How he pursues that priority. So he shall regard the prayer. Of the destitute and shall not despise their prayer. So god's glory is the purpose. And the building off of the church is his priority and how he accomplishes that purpose of glorifying himself.

And hearing and answering our prayers. Is the mechanism? By which he does that. You know, we cannot provide. Strength. Or ability or goodness. And so god gives us to provide something he gives us to provide neediness that we can provide Because it's not a thing, actually. But his spirit gives us to express.

Our neediness. That corresponds to his priority. And his purpose. And what a marvelous thing then. That god works his glory. And the restoration and building up of his church. And response to the prayers of his people. We should be a praying people. To whom god has given us such a privilege.

His work. In history. And in redemption, So, whenever he gives us, To. Agonize in the way that we heard. I'm very painfully. The first 11 verses. Last week. Let us recognize. An opportunity to pray. For that set time, that is coming. The lord has already said it. Our prayers do not set the time.

Our birds do not bring the time. But he has ordained. That the set time will come in response to our prayers. And so he gives us the privilege to participation. And that way. Holy spirit. Make us our whole lives long in this world. To be those who pray for.

The building up of his church. And his glory in it.

Our father, we thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you for. Planning to glorify yourself. And the building up of your church. We thank you for planning to do this. In response to our praying. Oh lord, you have bestowed upon us. A great privilege. That we might participate this way.

And yet o lord. We confess before you. That we have often neglected to take off the privilege. That you have bestowed upon us. And so we pray that from your infinite, love for your church. You would give us by your spirit. More love of our own for your church.

And that your spirit stirs us up to this. Love Wood, stir us up to prayer as well. And then here are prayers, oh, lord. And grant that we would see the arrival of the set time. When mercy in favor. Are shown to Zion. Grant that we would be those who as it were.

Love are very stones and her very dust. And the small sample of your infinite love. Three ask all these things in jesus name. Amen.