

# ***Personal / Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Jesus Wants to Be Your BFF**

### **(Best Friend Forever)**

**Week of February 11, 2018 A.D.**

As mere mortals, we just don't get it. This earth is a third rate hotel compared to heaven; and, everything that we find attractive (from a purely human perspective) is worthless compared to the surpassing greatness of having Jesus as our best friend for both time and eternity. Let's talk about that in this week's lesson.

#### **Read Philippians 3:4 – 11**

1. Is Paul insane? Are you willing to (and do you) consider everything – your reputation, your social standing, your money, your possessions – to be “rubbish” so that you may know Jesus as your Lord? Please explain why or why not.
2. Refer to verses 10 – 11. Do you want to know Christ better than you do now? Do you want to know the power of Jesus' resurrection? If not, why not? If so, what do you intend to do in order to make that happen? Please explain.

#### **Read Psalm 103:1 – 5**

3. What is your soul? Does your soul continue to live after the death of your physical body? Are the statements of verses 3 – 5 true for the soul of every person who receives Christ as their Savior? Please explain your answers.
4. Praise means: to commend the worth of; express approval or admiration of; to laud the glory of God. Read verses 1 – 2. What are the personal benefits which you receive from praising God? Please explain how much you value, seek, and enjoy those benefits.
5. How often do you praise God? How do you praise God? After reading these verses 1 – 5, how often (and in what specific ways) do you intend to praise God in the future? Why? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Psalm 103:6 – 12**

6. Refer to verse 6. Do oppression, injustice, and unrighteousness occur every day on this planet? Please explain how and why.
7. Explain the meaning of verse 7. Now refer to verse 8. In what ways is the Lord “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love”?
8. Do verses 9 – 10 apply to (a) our present life on earth? (b) our future life in eternity? and/or (c) all people or only to believers in Christ? Please explain each answer.
9. Refer to verses 11 – 12. Does God love all people the same? Please explain. Does verse 12 apply to everybody on the planet? Please explain.

### **Read 1 John 1:8 – 2:2**

10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The substitutionary, sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross is sufficient to provide forgiveness for the sins of all of the people who have ever lived. However, that very same forgiveness for sin is efficient (or effective) only for those people who put their faith and trust in Jesus for their forgiveness.”

### **Read Psalm 103:13 – 16 and John 8:42 – 47**

11. Is God the father of all people? Does God have compassion on all people? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Psalm 103:17 – 18 and John 10:27 – 30**

12. Do the children of God (a) fear him and obey him? (b) receive eternal life through faith in Christ? and (c) live with God for eternity? Please explain your answers.

**Consider:** Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us. We are not home yet. This world is not where we belong. “You think about it!” Amen.