

ALL THE LORD'S BENEFITS

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Do you know who made your mama and daddy? The Lord made them. Do you know who made your grandpa and grandma? The Lord made them. Do you know who makes the food you eat? The Lord made it.

The Lord is our Heavenly Father. He makes everything. He makes the sun shine. He makes our food grow. He makes us grow. Thanksgiving Day is a special time for saying thank-you to the Lord, because He does so many good things for us. The Word says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

"Benefits" are kind things someone does for us. What are some of the Lord's benefits to us? What should we thank Him for? He gives us our food. Psalm 103 says, "He satisfies your mouth with good things." He gives us a beautiful world to live in. The Lord has given us parents and friends, who love us and take good care of us. He really does take good care of everyone.

Another wonderful thing the Lord gives us is the ability to help other people. As we grow up, the Lord makes us stronger and more responsible and more able to think of what we should do. We can take care of younger children, and we can do things that really help our parents and our friends.

When we are all the way grown up, we can help even more people, by doing a useful job every day. We can especially help our husband or wife. And we can take care of our own children. The highest happiness comes from doing something useful, something to help other people. So one of the Lord's greatest benefits to us is the ability to be useful.

The greatest benefit of all is the Word. Why is this the Lord's greatest benefit to us? Because it leads us to heaven, where we will be happy forever. We are very blessed to know how great the Lord's mercy is to those who fear Him. This means toward everyone who remembers His commandments and tries to keep them. The Lord forgives our iniquities—all the bad things we do—and heals all our diseases. He teaches us the way to become angels. The Lord gives us all these benefits through his Word.

We are especially blessed by the Lord because He has given us the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church as well as the Old and New Testaments. In the Heavenly Doctrine, the Lord shows us plainly what life after death is like. He shows how we should live to be truly happy, and to help other people be happy.

So when we say, “Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name,” let’s not forget His Word and the eternal happiness that the Lord is preparing for us (Psalm 103).

Amen.