

The Mercy of God

What I am going to write about is completely foreign to the rational mind and the religious mind. The religious mind says you only get blessed if you do a lot of good things and nothing bad. The rational mind thinks that saying the god, who created the universe, sent his son to be tortured and killed for a rebellious mankind is foolishness.

People say that the Old Testament God is a mean god of judgment and physical punishment, and the New Testament God is a god of love. The only real difference is that, since Jesus and the New Covenant, God can deal with us spiritually instead of physically. We will see that God has never changed; He is the God of love, mercy, and forgiveness.

1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Again I say, both the religious mind and the rational mind have trouble grasping the fact that the god who created the universe cared so much for me that he sent his son to be nailed to a cross, and that this god will forgive all my sins if I just ask him. The religious mind thinks you have to do something to get God's favor. What separates Judaism and Christianity from other world religions is Judaism and Christianity are God reaching to man instead of man reaching to God. In all of the other religions you have to do something to obtain God's favor. The rational mind thinks this concept is foolish.

Different words are used that translate "mercy". I am going to give the definition of the word but not spend any time on trying to put the words in context. You can get a Strong's Concordance or go to www.blueletterbible.org and get the different verses for each word.

Old Testament

Checed – appears 248 times - mercy, kindness, loving kindness

Racham (masculine noun) – appears 44 times – womb, compassion, mercy

Racham (verb) – appears 47 times – love deeply, tender compassion, tender affection

Chanan – appears 78 times – to be gracious, show favor, pity

Kapporeth – appears 27 times – mercy seat, place of atonement

Kaphar – appears 102 times – to cover, make an atonement, purge – root word of kapporeth

New Testament

Eleeo – appears 28 times – to have mercy on, to help one afflicted or seeking aid, to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched, to experience mercy

This is the verse that first brought home to me how much God loves us and how he treats us when we sin. Speaking of Jesus, **Isaiah 42:3 A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not quench...Amplified.**

A reed is used to play music. Today we have reed instruments, such as the saxophone and clarinet. If a person damages the reed, it must be thrown out because it cannot be used. But God says he will not discard someone because that person is damaged and isn't perfect.

A smoldering wick does nothing but stink up the room. I put a bag of popcorn in the microwave at work one day and was called to the phone. When I came back and opened the popcorn, I found it to be smoldering and it started stinking up the place. Everyone started yelling at me to get the smoldering popcorn outside. God will not throw us out just because we stink.

Here are a few verses that relate to the mercy of God. We can read these verses over and over to build our faith in the mercy of God. There is a place in Jesus where the only thing we feel guilty about is not feeling guilty. Building our faith in God's mercy keeps us from being afraid of God. We can learn to run to God with our sins instead of away from Him.

Joel 2:18-27. When we sin and it causes us loss, God is so forgiving that He will give us back what we lost through disobedience. **Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten,...** I would like to say more on this but how can you put into words this kind of forgiveness.

Hebrews 4:16-Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

God is saying, "Come on in, don't bother to knock, and take all the mercy you need." The old song says, "You don't knock you just walk on in." The word "obtain" does not mean ask.

A good way to put this is, "Have more faith in God's work in Jesus than Satan's work in Adam." If we believe that our sin is so bad that God will not forgive us, then we call God a liar and poor old Jesus didn't get the job done. This attitude probably is a form of pride. If Jesus' work on the cross is not good enough then nothing we can do will help us. If I go 50 years without missing church or missing daily Bible reading will that get the job done? No, that would be me believing my righteousness works better than the righteousness of Jesus.

Colossians 2:13-having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to cross.

Not only did Jesus take away our sins but also the law and rules that made us sinners. Jesus canceled the written code. The law now is there to help us live on Earth and show us how to love. Love is the only law we have.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When we are born again we are made righteous. That person, born again a minute ago, is just as righteous as me or Peter or any great saint you can think of. There may be a big difference in the conduct of me, Peter or Paul, but our righteousness is the same. This righteousness is based on relationship, not works.

Since my righteousness is the same as God's and the murderer also is made the righteousness of God, we can both stand before God as righteous. This has nothing to do with our conduct. The

murderer's life is very unpleasant; a person whose conduct is better will have a more pleasant life.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

My sin is not any of the devil's business. God does not condemn me. Satan is the accuser.

Lamentations 3:21-23

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Think of the worse sin and let's say a person commits that sin, that person may have used up God's mercy. The next morning that person can start again; God's mercy is new every morning.

Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

We can measure from the North Pole to the South Pole, but we cannot measure from the east to the west. You can go east forever and never arrive. That is where He puts our sins.

Isaiah 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins

Jeremiah 31:34 (Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17)

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

God chooses to forget our sins.

Matthew 20

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

It is never too late to enter into a relationship with Jesus. If a person accepts Jesus just before they are executed for murdering someone, they go to Heaven; that person is just as righteous as me. In fact, that person is just as righteous as Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Philippians 3

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

One of my biggest problems is that I beat myself up for the things I have done in the past. God does not remember my sins, so I should just praise Him for His mercy anytime something old pops into my head. Understand, if we confess our sins they are gone and God does not remember them, period.

While I took a break in writing, I remembered that one of my suppliers has not sent me a bill on a large job that he did for me. I emailed him and said that I was not complaining but I haven't received a bill on the job yet. It got me thinking about what I was writing.

I owe this person money but since I have not gotten a bill, I don't know how much I owe. When I get the bill I will pay it. Because of my sin I owe God big time. While I can pay the bill the supplier will send, I cannot pay what I owe God. Since I could not pay my bill, God decided to pay it for me by nailing His son to a cross.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we confessed our sin, that is not when God found out about it; it is when we got rid of it. When we confess our sins, we are cleansed and made 100% righteous. There is no more unrighteousness in us. The Greek word for “all” means - each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything. God did not say some or all except the big ones.

The way to use this writing is to read it through once and then read the verses only, over and over, every day. At some point faith will come alive in the reader.