

Mercy

Psalm 103:6-14

Introduction: We all should die for our sins. That would be just. Yet, if we all received the just punishment for our sins, no one would go to heaven. Fortunately for us, God is not only just but He is also “rich in mercy”.

I. Mercy defined:

A. Mercy is taking pity on those who are in distress. It is compassion for the woes of others. It is sympathy for someone else’s misery. Mercy refers to the goodwill being extended to someone who has dug a deep hole for themselves and can’t get themselves out.

B. Mercy can also be considered the counter balance to justice. When justice requires a punishment for our conduct, mercy considers other circumstances unrelated to the situation.

C. For example, is it easier to extend mercy to someone who is sorry for his deeds or to someone who lies about their situation?

II. Consider our need for mercy.

A. We all have sinned and deserve to burn in Hell for all eternity (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

B. Justice demands a penalty for sin. However, our Savior came along and paid that penalty for us (Rom. 5:8-11). We were reconciled (past tense).

C. Because of our sins, we are not capable of climbing out of the deep hole we have dug. Yet, God took pity on us (mercy) and sent His Son to pay our penalty (grace). Though justice demands our death, His mercy has made it possible for us to find forgiveness through His grace by being obedient to His will.

III. Mercy is at God’s discretion.

A. God will extend mercy to whomever He wants (Dan. 9:9; Rom. 9:15-16).

B. There is a false idea that God extends His mercy to everyone regardless of their actions. It is almost the idea that God overlooks sin altogether.

C. God will not pervert justice (Job 34:10-12). But He “*makes man to find a reward according to His way.*”

D. The way His mercy saves us is by grace (Christ’s redeeming blood) through faith (Eph. 2:4-10).

1. We are not saved by our works because they remain insufficient to save us (2 Tim. 1:9).

2. We are most fortunate that God is not saving us according to our deeds (Titus 3:4-8).

3. However, we are saved according to the works God requires of us (Eph. 2:8-10; Jas. 2:14-26).

F. One of those works is baptism and we obtain mercy when we become Christians (1 Pet. 2:9-10). If you are not a Christian, you have not obtained mercy.

Conclusion: Don't despise His mercy by refusing to obey Him (Rom. 2:4-11). God will give you mercy if you baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). Yet, if you don't obey Him, justice awaits with "indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish." You will die without mercy!