

GOD'S MERCIES

Psalm 116:12-14

Introduction: Life causes rises and depressions in our faith and in our response to God. The Psalmist was down when he penned the words of our text but he had learned to keep looking up at God. Thus his words of encouragement to himself and to all who read his written words. No matter what life throws at us, God is always there with His mercies, we just need to stop and think about what God has already done in our lives.

I. THE BENEFITS CONFERRED BY GOD ARE UNCOUNTABLE

1. Above all God's benefits, there is His creation of all things.
 - Being physically strong is a good thing, but is not the best thing to have.
 - Being able to see, hear, feel, sense aromas are all wonderful, but are not the best things we have.
 - The best benefit God has given us is that we are made in His likeness.

2. Being born into this world is a benefit from God.
 - You (we) were born at exactly the time God wanted you (us) to be born.
 - You (we) were born in the exact country God wanted you (us) to be born.
 - You (we) are a part of God's great plan.

3. God's care and permissiveness is a benefit.
 - We will never know the countless times God has delivered/saved us from danger.
 - Consider your age. Millions have not lived to be as old as you are.
 - Your physical condition is far better than many, some have never walked, seen, heard, etc.
 - Difficulties you have gone through in your life time have taught you lessons.
 - Your physical afflictions have sent you to God many times in prayer.
 - If God had not cared for you, how differently your life might have been.
 - All of us are greatly indebted to God for His care for us.

4. God has redeemed us out of His love and care for us.
 - God gave His Son, Jesus for us.
 - God laid our sins upon His Son and He paid for them all.
 - God made a way for us to have eternal life with Him in Heaven.
 - Indeed, God's love for us passes all our knowledge.
 - What God has done for us surpasses all our ability to understand.
 - We cannot begin to comprehend the mystery of redemption and salvation God has given us.

II. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S MERCIES TOWARD US?

1. We should be overwhelmed with gratitude.
 - Words should fail us to describe our gratitude.
 - There can be only silent adoration and a groaning in our soul.
 - We should be so dazzled at God's mercies that we are at a loss for words.
 - We should openly praise God, singing of His mercies and telling others how great God is.

2. There should be devotion to God for His mercies.
 - We should be overwhelmed to the point of being determined to serve God in some way, not in words only, but in doing something.
 - Each mercy, each blessing from God should draw us closer to Him.
 - Each mercy, each blessing from God should bring total surrender to Him.
 - We have been bought with a price by God, Himself.

III. WHAT CAN WE GIVE BACK TO GOD IN RETURN FOR ALL HIS MERCIES TO US?

1. The Jews had a custom of offering sacrifice and observing the "Passover" in remembrance and thanksgiving for what God had done for them in the past.
2. For their individual families the Jews had a custom of the head of the family passing a cup of wine to his family during a "family only" dinner and everyone sang a hymn of praise to God.
3. Jesus used the same "family" custom at the "last supper" He had with His disciples when He passed bread and wine around to His "family," His disciples.
4. There is open praise and thanksgiving which we offer at our observance of the Lord's Supper.
5. We should never restrain ourselves from openly praising God because of some fear or shame of being associated with Jesus.
6. We can confess Him, magnify Him, adore Him, live for Him openly... "*...whether we eat or drink, whatever we do, do all to His glory...*"

CONCLUSION:

1. For those who do not know the Lord Jesus as Savior:
 - God's mercies are bestowed upon you, yet you continue to not accept His Son.
 - You enjoy your health but continue to live in sin.
 - You take God's blessings yet turn them into selfishness.
 - You hear the Gospel, but still reject Jesus and His Church.
 - What shall your behavior say about you when you stand before God at the last day?
 - You shall reap what you have been sowing with your life of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. For those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior:
 - Do not all the mercies of God often fill us with shame?
 - Do not all the mercies of God cause us to see our need to be humble?
 - Call upon the Lord for His arm is never too short to help.
 - Stand up and bless the Lord God.
 - Get to work, happily and joyfully for the Lord God.
 - Ask yourself, "*...What shall I render to the Lord for all His mercies...?*"