

## THE MERCY OF GOD

### Hebrews 4:16

**Introduction:** The mercy of God could be defined as God's goodness exercised on behalf of the needs of His creation. It is that everlasting principle of God's nature which led Him to seek out the lost and offer eternal salvation to them. Mercy is something which we humans do not offer to just everyone and sometimes there are some among us who show no mercy at all to anybody at anytime. Thankfully God is not like us.

### I. GOD'S MERCY IS MORE THAN OURS

1. God's mercy is always given and applied perfectly.
  - Whereas Christians seem to lack mercy toward those who disagree with them.
2. There is a difference between Mercy and Love.
  - Love is a strong feeling which develops from being with someone (others).
  - Mercy is the ability to wait and be patient with those who have wronged you.
  - In a sense, Mercy can be said that it comes out of a great love.
3. God's mercy has been shown in several areas.
  - God shows mercy to those who have trusted Him and have been invited into His Family.
  - God's mercy will be given to Israel once again when Jesus comes back.
  - God's mercy is given/shown when a lost person believes in Jesus Christ.
4. God's supreme gift (act) of mercy was in His giving His Son to be a sacrifice for us. Easter is the visible picture of God's supreme act of mercy toward mankind.

### II. GOD'S MERCY REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES

1. *Deuteronomy 4:31* - God continually watches over His Children.
2. *Micah 7:18* - God's mercy assures us of the forgiveness of our sins.
3. *2 Corinthians 1:3* - We are assured that nothing can affect our relationship with God as His Children.
4. *Deuteronomy 5:10* - We are reminded that God has chosen to show mercy to us.
5. *Nehemiah 1:11* - We can find God's mercy when we go to Him in prayer.
6. *Romans 11:30* - God extended His mercy to us Gentiles after Israel failed to do as they should have.
  - A reminder to us Gentiles, God didn't have to show mercy to us.
7. God's mercy is in a way conditional. His mercy is limited when it comes to those who reject Jesus and God's offer of free salvation.
8. God's mercy is specific and it varies with the way His Children obey and live before Him.

### III. HOW GOD'S MERCY IS SEEN

1. *Psalm 145:9* - God's mercy is seen in how He cares for His creation.
2. *Nehemiah 9:17-21, 27-32* - God's mercy is seen in how He helps His people even when they don't deserve it. He is longsuffering with us all as He helps the undeserving.  
- God's mercy is given/extended as He sees fit.
3. *Ephesians 2:4-8* - God's mercy is seen the greatest in Gentiles' salvation in Jesus Christ. Salvation extended to us Gentiles is purely God's mercy.

### IV. WHAT GOD'S MERCY SHOULD DO TO PEOPLE

1. God's mercy should cause believers to be merciful. *Luke 6:36*
2. His mercy should cause believers to become more committed. *Romans 12:1*
3. God's mercy should move us to be closer together as brothers and sisters in Christ. *Philippians 2:1-4*
4. God has and will at times draw back His mercy from us. *1 Chronicles 17:13*
5. How do we Christians show mercy to non believers? Witness to them, give them the Gospel.
6. How do we Christians show mercy to other believers? Help materially, physically as we can, speak kindly of them, forgive them, and comfort any who may have sinned.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Mercy - the undeserved gift, goodness, provision, actions of our God.
2. Our heavenly Father loves us - chose us - cares for us - constantly favors us - forgives us.
3. BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO.....that's mercy!