

The Mercy of God

Part 1 Lesson 1

S045 26 0322P

When we get a real understanding of God's mercy, its real importance, it will give us a confidence to go to Him and receive, not only the deliverance, but also enable us to ask in faith for the deliverance we need; that is the real practical result of understanding the mercy of God and believing and accepting it as it is.

We shall consider how great His mercy is and how we can make a practical application of it to our needs.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3 Paul tells us: *“Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all comfort.”*

The *“Father of all mercies”* means that God cannot be anything other than merciful under all conditions and all circumstances.

Jesus tells us in the 8th chapter of John that Satan was the father of lies. By this statement Jesus meant that Satan could not do anything but tell falsehoods; it was impossible for Satan to tell the truth.

It is a good thing for us to remember that, as Satan is continually suggesting things to us, and they seem to be so truthful on the surface. If we do not watch carefully, we will give credence to Satan's word and his arm will be revealed unto us. We need to be very careful and remember that Satan is the father of lies.

Let us also not forget that God is the Father of mercies, and cannot do anything but be merciful unto us. This is His character, just as much as love is His character. His mercy springs from His love; it is inspired by love.

As an illustration, we will consider a criminal, and I do not care what condition he is in, how vile or degraded, what position he is in, or what crime he has committed; you will find his father or mother will always have mercy upon him; they try to make excuses for him and believe there must be some misunderstanding concerning the crime; they always endeavor to put the best interpretation on what he has done.

You will also notice this in parents desiring to have their children brought to salvation; they want them to repent and be saved even if on their deathbed.

Husbands and wives, who are not Christians at all, plead with each other. God has placed that mercy into our hearts, and although it has become marred through sin and Satan's power, what must the Father of that mercy be; how kind and merciful will He be to us.

It is written in another place that God delighteth in mercy. He delights to be merciful. You know that there are certain things we delight to do; so, God delights in showing mercy unto us.

Micah 7:18 *“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy.”* (Micah 7:18)

That is just the way with the God we have; He just delights to be merciful; He is delighted to extend mercy unto us; just like a boy delights in playing baseball; it is something which gives him pleasure.

Let us keep this text before us and endeavor to get a practical meaning of it.

We have the mercy of God brought out clearly in Psalm 103. David had committed a grievous sin against Uriah; by causing him to be murdered and taking his wife. However, he repented, as we read in the language of Psalm 51; He laid the whole matter before God.

Then in Psalm 103 we have his testimony, or thanksgiving, after the pardon and cleansing and restoration to health.

We will just read a few verses, and see how merciful God was and how this mercy worked out.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction: Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.”

“Redeemeth thy life from destruction” of course relates to sickness and trouble--a serious spell of sickness had come upon him.

“Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies”—He just pours out His mercies upon us. David means to tell us here that humanly speaking, he would not have expected any deliverance; if he had been dealing with man, death would have resulted and

nothing less; but when he was willing to turn from that sin and honestly confess it before God, He met him with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

That was the circumstance surrounding David's case, and it will help us to see how far that mercy extends, how long it lasts; which we will find in this same Psalm, verse 11: *"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear Him."*

Then in the 17thverse— *"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children."*

Did you catch that? *"From everlasting to everlasting."* That is the extent of God's mercy. Satan likes to make us believe that God's mercy is weak and wavering; and Satan does not want us to ever grasp the fact that God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.

It may not always seem so to us, but no matter what the past has been or what the present is, the moment we are willing to go before God and honestly confess our true condition and ask Him for mercy, His mercy is always waiting for us; it has never been taken away, it is always ready for us; it is a continuing mercy and will last as long as we need it.

The sooner we take it the better, as it is for our benefit; through it we are existing, as there is never a breath in our body that mercy has not been extended for it.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 12: *"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh a word against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."* Matthew 12: 31-32

We are to confess our sins and wrong doings and forsake them, and God's forgiveness is always there waiting for us; God's mercy is always extended. Beloved, never forget that this mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

We have the same thought in Psalm 107:1 *"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."*

Did you ever notice in Psalm 136 how often the word mercy is used? Some think it was a vain repetition. The Psalm has twenty-six verses and at the end of each verse are the words: *"for his mercy endureth forever."*

God never ceases to be merciful to anyone at any time; He is always waiting to be merciful to us.

We have another thought brought out in Romans 11 beginning at verse 29. Paul is speaking of Israel and how God had mercy upon them; finally, He sent His Son, and they rejected Him.

Because of that sin, God was compelled to lay them aside. He is only waiting for them, and in the meantime, he turned to the Gentiles. However, during these 2000 and more years, He has not changed in His attitude toward them. He is still waiting and extending mercy; waiting for the Israelites, or Jews, to repent, that His mercy may be poured upon them; He is simply waiting to have great mercy upon them.

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief; Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all." Romans 11:29-32

God does everything in His power that He might be merciful unto us and that He might be kind unto us.

Perhaps you have had experience of that kind. You have had a child whom you desired to help, a very ill-tempered, unreasonable one, who had refused to accept your mercy and kindness; you could not advise them, nor help them, although you were merciful unto them.

That is just the situation of God's dealings with the human race; He is continually trying to advise them, but they will not repent; they will have nothing to do with Him, and still, He is continually extending His mercy toward them.

His greatest manifestation of mercy is found in Romans 5:6, *"For when we were yet without strength; in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

That was His greatest gift in manifestation of mercy inspired by His great heart of love.

We have another text along this line in Romans 8:31-32, *"If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

Beloved, a God Who gave His best, His only Son, when we were without strength and ungodly, how would

