

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 671 September 6, 2018

Aren't You Grateful You Don't Get What You Deserve?

Bill Brinkworth

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." Lamentations 3:22

Noah Webster described mercy as the "... tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves ..." It is God's "tenderness of heart" that overlooks all we have done, and allows us to have more than we deserve!

What we all truly deserve is:

- Judgment for our sins.
- To reap what we have sown. If we all had received the consequences from ALL our sins, none of us would have a moment that we were not regretting some consequence from a past mistake.
- A place in Hell because of our sin. Because of sin, "big" or "small", no one will see Heaven, unless they trust Jesus' death on the cross as payment for their sins.

- Nothing good. Why is it that so many think they “deserve” a longer life, more happiness, fewer troubles, more riches, or better opportunities than another?

None of us deserves anything, but then there is God’s mercy. His “tenderness of heart” gives all, especially those that are born into His family (John 3:3), far more than they deserve.

Thank you, Lord, for your compassion and mercy that:

- Forgives and forgets every single sin when we are saved! Each sin we commit is against the Great God. He hates every sin; yet when we are saved, He forgives and forgets every single transgression (Psalms 103:12).
- No matter who we are, or what we have done, His mercy allows each of us to be a child of His.
- Gives us second, third, fourth, two thousand ... chances to try to correct our sin!
- Even though we mess up, He still loves us!
- Even though we can do so little for Him, He still will let us work for Him and be a testimony for Him. Often, it is like a two-year-old trying to help an adult. In most situations, the child is probably more of a hindrance than a help, but still the adult lets the child try! That is what our patient God does! Even though we are weak and riddled with faults, He still will use us for His work, if we desire to be used.

- Answers our requests when we seldom talk to Him. Too many only pray when there is a problem. Daily fellowship with Him is not common for many.
- Listens to us any time of day or night. Try that with your parents or best friends!
- Helps us when we get in a jam even because we did not listen to Him in the first place!
- Shows us repeatedly what He wants us to do. The God of Heaven should only have to speak to us once, and we should do as He bids.

God is so good! We deserve nothing but get so much from a wonderful Father. All have received much more of His mercy than is deserved. Then why can we not:

- Forgive and forget when one hurts our feelings? Think how many times God has forgiven us.
- Give others a second, third, or ... chance, when they make a mistake?
- Overlook and forget when folks talk against us? Think of all the times we have gossiped.
- Still love and care for those that do wrong against us (Luke 6:28)? Be kind to those that cannot do as good a job, play ball, read in class, or are as smart as you are? God knows everything, yet He still listens to us and has compassion.
- Help others when you see the need, even though they may have wronged you in the past? You have wronged God, yet He still helps you!
- Have mercy on a person, when they are having a bad day or are not themselves because of a tragedy or problem in their life? Would you want to be ignored or

forgotten when you are going through trials and tribulations? God would never do that to you if you are His child.

Be a little more like God! Put up with more from others. Have mercy on others! Look what God puts up with in you!

“We hand folks over to God's mercy and show none ourselves!” — *Eliot*

A Dad's Mercy

Bill Brinkworth

I learned an important lesson about God's mercy from my friend, Paul. His son came home from school with a letter from his teacher. It was one of those letters every child dread to hand over to his parent. The letter informed him of his son's misconduct.

After discussing the infraction with the boy, the child was disciplined. With tearful regrets, the child promised there would be no further incident.

The next day the boy returned with another letter from his teacher. He had committed the same violation. Again, his father disciplined him, and again he promised there would be no further wrongdoing in school.

The following day, he returned with another letter, and the next day, also. On the fifth day, the child returned with another letter. It was apparent that the boy wanted to do right, but for whatever the reason, just could not.

With tears in his voice, the boy again explained to his father what he had done wrong. Then the father did something that changed everything. Paul reached into his wallet, pulled out some bills and handed them to his son. The boy looked at them and looked back at his father. “Why are you giving them to me? I don’t deserve them.”

“No, you don’t, son. But, I know you tried, and that is a reward for your attempt. I just know that when Monday comes, you will not come home with a letter from your teacher!”

He was right. The boy’s attitude changed. He went to school and did not have any further problems, all because he received something he did not deserve — mercy!

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” *Matthew 5:7*

The Unlocked Door

Author Unknown

The daughter of a widow had left her mother’s house. Led astray by others, she had forsaken the guidance of her mother and her spiritual training.

Diligently her mother prayed for the child. Her efforts bombarding the throne of grace were not futile. The child became burdened by her sin, and she returned home late one night.

It was near midnight, and she was surprised to find the door unlocked. Her mother later explained to her why it was unlatched, “Never, my child, night or day, has that door been fastened since you left. I knew that you would come back some day, and I was unwilling to keep you waiting for a single moment.”

That illustrates how God leaves the door open for us, so we can always return to him. No matter how wayward we have become, His door is always open!

“In weighty matters, wait on God. Count nothing too light to be brought to the mercy seat.” — *Spurgeon*

Undeserved Mercy

Spencer

King David, after his victory over the Philistines, called his servant, Ziba before him. He asked him if there was any man left of the house of Saul, that the king might do him a kindness for the king’s friend’s, Jonathan, sake. They searched for a survivor and returned with Mephibosheth, a poor, lame, impotent man. As Mephibosheth appeared before the king, he fell upon his face before the king expecting the worst from the king and knowing that he was not worthy of any of the king’s favors.

“... Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land

of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually,” offered the king.

Thus, will the King of Heaven do to any forlorn person that is fallen into the pit of despair. Let him but cast up his eyes to the hills from whence comes his salvation, and God will show all mercy for Jesus Christ’s sake! If there be any lame, impotent Mephibosheths, any wounded spirits, or any that are distressed, God will inquire after them and do them good for Jesus’ sake.

“Being all fashioned of the same dust, let us be merciful as well as just.” — *Longfellow*