

# God Is Gracious And Full Of Mercy

Intro: One of the great attributes of God in relation to man is His grace and mercy, and the fact that God expresses His grace unto man.

## I. IT IS THE OUTGROWTH OF GOD'S LOVE AND EXPRESSION OF IT.

### A. There is a distinction in the Scriptures of mercy and grace.

1. Grace is that which is intended.
2. Mercy is that which has been expressed.

### B. This is why they are often listed together.

## II. THE BIBLE EXPRESSES THIS ATTRIBUTE

### A. Old Testament passages:

1. Psa. 86:15 "But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."
2. Psa. 103:8 "The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."
3. Psa. 145:8 "The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."
4. Exo. 20:6 "And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

### B. New Testament passages:

1. 2 Cor. 1:3 "Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;"
  - a. The Father—is the one brought it into being.
  - b. Where God has not gone into the world, man does not know the meaning of grace, mercy, or kindness.
2. Eph. 2:4, 8-9 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,...<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast."
3. Tit. 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"
4. Tit. 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

## III. THE GREATEST EXPRESSION OF HIS GRACE IS IN CHRIST WHO DIED ON THE CROSS.

A. Tit. 2:11-15 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup>Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; <sup>13</sup>Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup>Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. <sup>15</sup>These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

B. Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:"

### C. God's holiness demands a separation from sin.

1. Hab. 1:13 "*Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?"
2. 1 Pet. 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil."
  - a. What about God hearing and seeing all things.
    - (1) Pro. 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

- (2) When it speaks of God not hearing and seeing, it is with a view of approval, association with, or acceptance of it.
- b. But, God physically knows all things.
3. God's justice demands punishment of that sin.
4. But, God's love expresses mercy toward man.

#### IV. THAT GRACE OF GOD IS FOUND ONLY IN CHRIST JESUS.

- A. **2 Tim. 2:1** "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
- B. **It was the manifestation of Christ that made the grace of God known unto man.**
  1. That grace of God that would bring eternal life is in Christ.
  2. In Christ is the only place it is found.
- C. **If one does not come into contact with Christ, he is without God's grace.**
  1. We must be in Christ to escape God's justness that demands punishment of sin.
  2. How we get into Christ.
    - a. Rom. 6:1-7 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? <sup>3</sup>Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: <sup>6</sup>Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. <sup>7</sup>For he that is dead is freed from sin."
    - b. Gal. 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- D. **Tit. 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
  1. God saves us by His grace. How?
  2. By the washing of regeneration (the new birth).
    - a. John 3:1-7 "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: <sup>2</sup>The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."
    - b. The only thing that embraces water and spirit is baptism.
      - (1) Mat. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."
      - (2) Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
      - (3) Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

- c. Washing refers to water baptism.
  - (1) 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
  - (2) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

**Conclusion:** Are you in Christ so you can receive the mercy God offers?