GOD IS A MERCIFUL GOD!

"The LORD thy God is a Merciful God"

(Deut. 4:31 & Selected Scriptures)

6/22/03

INTRODUCTION:

I. God's <u>Definition</u> of His Mercy (SEE Ephesians 2:4-5.)

II. God's <u>Description</u> of His Mercy

1. God's mercy is <u>great</u> (Ps. 57:10; Ps. 86:13)
2. God's mercy is <u>plenteous</u> (Ps. 86:5, 15)
3. God's mercy is <u>everlasting</u> (Ps. 136; Ps. 100:5)
4. God's mercy is "<u>new every morning</u>" (Lam. 3:22-23)
5. God's mercy is <u>tender</u> (Lk. 1:78)
6. God's mercy is <u>abundant</u> (I Pet. 1:3)

III. God's <u>Display</u> of His Mercy

1. Physical deliverance from judgment
   a. God delivered Lot (Gen. 19:16)
   b. God delivered Israel from Egypt (Ex. 15:13)
   c. God delivered Israel by means of judges (Neh. 9:27-31).
   d. God delivered Israel from Medo-Persia (Ezra 9:9, 13)

2. Spiritual deliverance from judgment

   a. Since God is merciful, He can <u>withhold punishment</u> (Lam. 3:22; Micah 7:18-19)
   b. Since God is merciful, He <u>saves souls</u> (Tit. 3:5; I Pet. 1:3)
   c. Since God is merciful, He can <u>forgive sin</u> (Heb. 8:12; Ja. 5:11, 15)

      NOTE: God displays mercy to those who turn to Him in genuine repentance (EX: Publican - "God be merciful . . ." (Lk. 13:3).

IV. God's <u>Desire</u> to Show Mercy

1. God <u>chooses</u> to show mercy (Rom. 9:15-18)

2. God <u>delights</u> in showing mercy (Micah 7:18).

3. God is <u>rich</u> in mercy (Eph. 2:4)

CONCLUSION:

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INTRODUCTION:

It's important that we have a balanced understanding of the nature of God.

While God is holy and just, He is also loving and merciful.

God is merciful and at the same time truthful (Ps. 85:10).

A.God's Definition of His Mercy

SEE Ephesians 2:4-5.

God's mercy is an extension of His love. It is often called "transitive love" or expressed love.

In the same way that God's righteousness (justice) is holiness in action, and just as God's faithfulness is a manifestation of His truthfulness, God's mercy is a concrete demonstration of His love. It is love in action.

Mercy is closely related to grace, but is not the same.

How does mercy differ from grace? Both stem from His love, but are two aspects of His love.

"Grace" - God's giving to man what he does not deserve (the gift of God - heaven).

"Mercy" - God's withholding from man what he does deserve (the wrath of God - hell).

Both happen simultaneously. Whenever God is merciful, He is gracious and whenever He is gracious, He is merciful.

Mercy and grace are opposite sides of the same coin.

Justice is getting what we do deserve.

Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

Grace is getting what we do not deserve.

Old Testament use of "mercy":

1)"Hesed" - to have a loyal affection or a non-stop "loving-kindness." The emphasis of this word is on the continual nature of God's mercy - SEE Psalm 136.

2)"Raham" - a deep inner feeling of tender compassion, pity, or sympathy (like the feeling of a mother toward her nursing baby - Is. 49:15; or the pity of a father toward his children - Micah 7:17).

3)"Kaphar (kipper) - the forgiving aspect of God's mercy. The mercy of God which seeks to cover or wipe out man's sin and guilt.

ILLUS: the "Mercy Seat" ("Kapporeth" seat) - a cover that was placed over the ark of the covenant in the HOly of Holies (Ex. 25:17-22) whereon the blood of the sin offering was sprinkled annually by the High Priest to make atonement for the people's sins.

(Christ is our "mercy seat" - Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:5)

New Testament use of "mercy":

1)"Eleos" - God's action of bringing relief to those in misery. The manifestation of pity or sympathy (Rom. 15:9; II Tim. 1:16: Jude 21).

2)"Oiktirmos" - compassion (II Cor. 1:3).

3)"Splanchnon" - affections of the heart, feelings of kindness, tender mercies (Phil. 2:1).

4)"Hilaskomai - the forgiving aspect of God's mercy.

B.God's Description of His Mercy

1.God's mercy is great

Ps. 57:10 - "For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds."

Ps. 86:13 - "For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."

ILLUS: David's dependence on the greatness of God's mercy (II Sam. 24:13-16).

2.God's mercy is plenteous

Ps. 86:5, 15 - "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

3.God's mercy is everlasting (Ps. 136)

Ps. 100:5 - "For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

4.God's mercy is "new every morning"

Lam. 3:22-23 - "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

5.God's mercy is tender

Lk. 1:78 - "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us."

6.God's mercy is abundant

I Pet. 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

C.God's <u>Display</u> of His Mercy

1.Physical deliverance from judgment

a.God delivered Lot

Gen. 19:16 - "And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city."

b.God delivered Israel from Egypt

Ex. 15:13 - "Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."

c.God delivered Israel by means of judges
(Neh. 9:27-31).

d.God delivered Israel from Medo-Persia

Ezra 9:9, 13 - "For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this."

2.Spiritual deliverance from judgment

a.Since God is merciful, He can <u>withhold punishment</u> (Lam. 3:22)

Micah 7:18-19 - "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 for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

b.Since God is merciful, He can <u>save souls</u>

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."

I Pet. 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

c.Since God is merciful, He can <u>forgive sin</u>

Heb. 8:12 - "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

Ja. 5:11, 15 - "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

NOTE: God displays mercy to those who turn to Him in genuine repentance.

II Chron. 30:9 - "For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him."

Prov. 28:13 - "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Is. 55:7 - "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

(EX: Publican - "God be merciful . . ." (Lk. 13:3).

D.God's Desire to Show Mercy

1.God chooses to show mercy (Rom. 9:15-18)
(Nothing in man compels God to be merciful; no one merits mercy)

Ex. 33:19 - "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."

2.God delights in showing mercy (Micah 7:18).

God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11).

Rather, He delights in showing mercy!

Believers are called "Vessels of mercy" (Ro. 9:23).

3.God is rich in mercy

Eph. 2:4 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith He loved us."

The child of God can have the confidence of David: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." (Ps. 23:6).

CONCLUSION: **The Believer's Response to God's Mercy**

Because of God's mercy, your response should be one of:

1.Trust (dependence)

Joel 2:13 - "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

2.Praise -

Thanksgiving - I Chron. 16:34 - "O give thanks unto the LORD: for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever."

Gladness and Rejoicing - Ps. 31:7 - "I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities."

Singing - Ps. 59:16 - "But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble."

3.Showing mercy yourself (Mt. 5:7)

Lk. 6:36 - "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

Rom. 12:8 - "Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

Ja. 2:13 - "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

EX: David's mercy on Saul (I Sam. 24:5-6; 26:12, 21).
David's mercy on Shimei (cp. II Sam. 16:5-13 with
II Sam. 19:16-23)

4.Prayer for God's mercy (Heb. 4:16).

5.Desire for others to have God's mercy.

Paul, John, and Jude all wished God's mercy to be upon the believers they wrote to - I and II Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; II Jn. 3; Jude 2.

6.Full surrender to the will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).