

DOCTRINE OF MERCY

I. Definition.

- A. Mercy is the expression of grace in action. Heb.4:16
- B. It is forbearance (the refraining from) in inflicting punishment on an offender or enemy who is in one's power.
- C. It is mirrored by compassion (affording help) in that it affords kindness in excess of what is expected or deserved. Deu.13:17
- D. It carries the disposition of forgiveness.

II. Vocabulary.

A. Hebrew:

- 1. כַּפֹּרֶת - kaporeth; used only of the "mercy seat"; 27x; propitiation, satisfaction; from כָּפַר - copher; to cover over sin; indicates the price paid or ransom and hence mercy bestowed through Christ's work on the cross.
- 2. רַחֵם - racham; compassion; mercy; have pity.
- 3. תַּחֲנֻנָּה - techinah; supplication for favor, grace, mercy, petition.
- 4. חָמַל - chamal; to spare, have pity, mercy.

B. Greek:

- 1. ἐλέω - eleo; verb; to have pity, mercy, to show mercy, receive mercy.
- 2. ἐλεήμων - eleemon; adj.; merciful.
- 3. ἔλεος - eleos; noun; mercy, pity, compassion.
- 4. οἰκτιρμός - oiktirmos; noun; compassion, pity, mercy.

III. God the Father is a God of mercy. 2Cor.1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."*

IV. Mercy is a part of Divine essence and function of Divine love. Eph.2:4 *"But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us."*

V. Any time a believer is blessed it is called "mercy". This associates all blessing with the expression of grace in the POG. Lk.1:58; Phi.2:27; 2Tim.1:16,18

VI. Divine mercy is for every generation. Luk.1:50 cp.Lam.3:22

VII. In the present dispensation, God has demonstrated His mercy to the gentiles by constituting them the chosen people of God. Rom.11:30-31 *"For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy."*

VIII. Ph₁ or SAJG mercy:

- A.** It was taught in the ritual associated with the mercy seat made of gold under the Law. Exo.25:17-22; 26:34; 31:7; Heb.9:5.
- B.** This represented that the POG for salvation was propitiated (satisfied) based on Christ's voluntary sacrifice on the cross on behalf of men. Heb.2:17
- C.** Mercy is potential for all, since all are in the same condition (unlimited atonement). Rom.11:32 *"For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all."*
- D.** God bestows it only upon those He determines worthy. Rom.9:15-18 *"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.' So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."*
- E.** It is not bestowed upon the basis of works. Tit.3:5 *"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit."*
- F.** It is not withheld based on the evil of the person. 1Tim.1:16 *"And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."*
- G.** It is for the gentiles. Rom.15:9

IX. The mercy pool is the basis for our continued blessing in Ph₂.

- A.** Believers are called "vessels of mercy". Rom.9:23 *"And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory"; cp. vs.22 "What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?"*
- B.** God's past merciful dealings with us is the basis for our present encouragement under testing. 2Cor.4:1.
- C.** Those who walk according to the right kind of teaching come under a promise of Ph₂ mercy. Gal.6:16 *"And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God."*
- D.** We are to continually pray that we may receive mercy in a timely fashion. Heb.4:16 *"Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."*
- E.** Mercy is a spiritual gift. Rom.12:8 *"...He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*

X. Mercy is a virtue that we are to exhibit towards others.

- A.** It is the product of BD in the soul. Jam.3:17 *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."*

- B. It is to be shown to those who are in danger spiritually. Jud.22,23 *"And have mercy on some who are doubting; save others snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."*
 - C. Special consideration will be shown to believers who show mercy at the Bema Seat. Mt.5:7 *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy"*; cp. Jam.2:13 *"For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment."*
- XI.** God's dealing with Israel is according to mercy. Jer.33:25,26; cp. Hab.3:2 *"LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy."*; Heb.8:12
- XII.** Mercy is a synonym for the Rapture. Jud.21 *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."*
- XIII.** God's mercies are:
- A. "Great". 2Sam.24:14
 - B. "Tender". Luk.1:78
 - C. "Faithful". Isa.55:3
- XIV.** Mercilessness (absence of mercy).
- A. There is no mercy for unbelievers after death. Luk.16:24 cp.Heb.9:27; Rev.20:11-15
 - B. It is a characteristic of –V. Rom.1:31
 - C. No mercy will be shown towards judging the works of believers at the Bema that fail to fulfill the royal law of Divine love. Jam.2:13 cp.vss.8-9 cp.1Cor.3:13-15; 1Pet.1:17
 - D. God shows no mercy in judgment in time against those who persist in their rejection of His will. Gen.7:6ff; 19:24-26; Heb.10:26-30 (no 2nd chance category for believers); Rev.19:19-21
 - E. Mercy is to be removed in execution of establishment law towards certain offenders and/or others deserving capital punishment. Deu.19:11-13,21; 25:11-12 cp.Heb.10:28
 - F. No mercy is to be given towards religious reversionists that solicit others to their brand of idolatry. Deu.13:6-11 cp. 2Joh.9-11
 - G. Any feelings of compassion and mercy are to be set aside by believers called upon to engage in warfare. Deu.7:16; 1Sam.15:1-3
- XV.** Because of God's great mercies we should rebound and present ourselves to God's service. Rom.12:1 *"I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*