

## Mercy – Not Getting What You Deserve Part 2

### Psalms 119:65-68

Let's take a moment and settle our hearts before we go into the message I believe God has for us this morning.

Pray

Great is Thy Faithfulness Page 72

This morning I wanted us to continue on a thought I began sharing with you. To do this let's begin our time together in **Psalm 119:65, 68a, "You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word."**

What is the word the Psalmist is referring to? I think it may be mercy, mercy. As I mentioned last week I believe this is one of the main characteristics of our God.

**Exodus 34:6-7, "...the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin..."**

We have such a awesome God whose mercies and love know no end.

**Psalm 119:68a: "You are good and do good."** Says the Psalmist.

Last week we spoke about God and His love and mercy for us. This was something a few of the people in the Old Testament, the people who lived before Christ was born, this was something they knew and experienced. Abraham knew about the love and mercy of God, as did David, Joseph and many others.

God consistently and faithfully revealed Himself to be a loving and merciful God. And that love continued and was made known to all humanity through His Son Jesus Christ.

In the beginning of Hebrews we are told, **Hebrews 1:1-2, “God, after He spoke long ago in the prophets and in many portions and in many ways, in these last days (the days when Jesus walked the earth), (God) has spoken to us in His Son...”**

Not only did God show Himself faithful, forgiving, patient and full of mercy in the days before Christ, all His love and mercy has been summed in the form and gift of His Son Jesus.

Romans 5:8 tells us this. **Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrated His love of us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**

For the rest of this sermon I wanted us to dip back into the teaching we had on Ephesians. Amazingly enough, as I was looking back through my notes and sermons, it was exactly one year ago that we were in the second chapter of Ephesians. We are going to look back into some of those verses today. Look with me. I don't think we can hear these verse enough.

**Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desire of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”**

If you want to more deeply explore this verse you can go to our web-site and look for the sermon that covers Ephesians 2.

The reality of our condition before we accepted Christ is we had a sin nature that had to be dealt with. We were dead...dead spiritually, dead to the opportunity to have eternal life, dead to receiving any blessings from God. This is where you and I were when God found us. As it says in Ephesians 2:1 and later in verse 5.

Look though, how verse 4 continues. **Ephesians 2:4, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...”**

Don't you love the way this verse begins? But God...but God. It doesn't matter what was happening in your life before you accepted Christ. It didn't matter what was happening in the world, God had to act upon His nature and that nature was love and mercy. God's nature demanded an answer for the sin nature that had become a part of humanity and which created a separation between God and the creation He loved.

Look with me at verses 5-7. **“even when we were dead in our transgressions and sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”**

Thank goodness it was God who did this and not someone else. Thank goodness it was a God who wasn't judging you, trying to decide whether or not you deserved being brought back to life.

Even though you had the sin nature in you, even though you may have been living out that sin nature in various ways, even though you may have thought you were good enough to be saved but you didn't have the ability to.

Even though...so many things...But our God, who is rich in mercy, love and full of grace brought you from death back to life, true life in His spiritual kingdom here on earth and a physical/spiritual life for all eternity.

There are a couple of people within this congregation who have had a brush with possible death. Their heart was not functioning correctly and they need a savior. They needed an EMT, a doctor, a nurse, someone who could do what they could not.

The same is true of spiritually dead people. They need a savior and that is who your God is. He is your Savior. When you put your faith and trust in Him and His reanimation process through His Son Jesus then you are brought back to life. But not just any life, a new life that is charged with God's power and purpose.

Coming back into true life with God and with Jesus means so many things. Look at some of the things listed here in Ephesians 2:6-10 that God tells us happens when He brings us back from death.

- 1. We are raised up with Christ**
- 2. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly (spiritual) places**
- 3. We are positioned for God to show His surpassing riches of His grace in kindness to us**

I wanted to tell you this morning you have not received any of these things because of something good you did. The only reason you received these wonderful blessings is because of the love and mercy of your God.

But there is more, much, much more.

Because we now stand in the presence of God because of the work of Christ. Because we now stand in the presence of God with Christ in us. That is what happens when you receive Christ as your Savior. He comes to live in you.

Because He lives in you and you in live Him look with me at a number of passages that speak of the truth of your new life, the new position you have been given because of love and mercy of your God.

I know this is going to be a great download of scripture but I wanted you to have them so you can ponder them, pray over them, ask God for revelation of the truth of them. I wanted them for myself because I am not there yet. I am not in full understanding of all that Christ accomplished on the cross for me.

But this I know. I do not want to miss anything that Christ has for me. I do not want to miss anything that His sacrifice was meant to give me. I don't want this for me and I don't want this for you.

All these passages have two words in common, in Christ. They speak of the truths of your new found position with God. You are in Christ and Christ is in you. Look with me at just a portion of the truth of your new life in Christ.

Have different individuals in the congregation read these.

**Romans 3:24, "...*justified* (made right with God) as a gift by His grace through the *redemption* (you have been redeemed from a life of death) which is in Christ Jesus..."**

**Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death but the *free gift of God is eternal life* in Christ Jesus."**

**Romans 8:1, "For there is now no *condemnation* (eternal judgment; damnation) for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

**Romans 8:2, "...the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus *has set you free* from the law of sin and of death."**

**Romans 8:38-39, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, no depth, nor any other created things, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 1:2, “have been *sanctified* (made holy) in Christ Jesus...”**

**1 Corinthians 15:22, “...in Christ all will be made alive.”**

**2 Corinthians 2:14, “But thanks be to God, who always *leads us in triumph* in Christ...”**

**2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a *new creature*; the *old things (the old sin nature)* has passed away; behold *new things (new life in Christ)* has come.”**

**2 Corinthians 5:19, “...God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, *not counting their trespasses against them*...”**

**Galatians 3:26, “For you are all sons (and daughters of God) through faith in Christ.”**

**Ephesians 2:13, “But now in Christ Jesus, you who formerly were far off *have been brought near (the throne of God)* by the blood of Christ.”**

**Ephesians 3:6, “...*fellow partakers of the promise(s)* in Christ Jesus...”**

**Ephesians 4:32, “...God in Christ has forgiven you.”**

**Philippians 4:19, “...God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and *the dead in Christ will rise first.*”**

Wow, right?? The blessings we receive because we are now in Christ and Christ is in us is incredible. I can't even begin to perceive how wonderful this is.

I don't know about you but I want to spend some time with these, asking God to let the truth of what occurred on the cross to wash over me, to wash over you.

God's mercy is so incredible. so thorough, so unbelievably good.

Do you deserve any of this? Really, truthfully. Do you deserve to receive all the surpassing riches of God's grace, mercy and kindness?

Like the sermon title says, Mercy – not receiving what we deserve. God's mercy is displayed in Christ towards you, not because you deserve it but because of His love for you.

In closing I wanted to show a true example of mercy in action. You might have seen a clip of this on the news. It is the brother of the man, Bothom Jean, who was killed by the female cop, Amber Guyger, **PICTURE** in Texas. It was after she had been found guilty of murder and sentenced to 10 years in jail.

As you watch this I want you to really compare this man with the compassion of Jesus.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeESVLQK4hw>**

Truly amazing isn't it? So full of love, compassion and mercy.

This is just a bit of the mercy you have already received from God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus is waiting, looking forward to the day He can embrace you in a very physical way. There will not be any jail time for you when this life is over if you are in Christ. In fact, if you will allow Him, if you will spend time with Him, if you will spend time in the passages I have shared with you this morning, I believe you will get a sense of just how much Jesus loves us. He paid it all, He did it all, took the penalty for your sin. He positioned you in a place where God will now lavishly pour out His blessing from heaven on you.

Amen?

Let's Pray