

## The Mercy of Jehovah

### Psalm 103

Christmas, for many, is not a pleasant time. In fact, it can be an easy time for us to be depressed from a number of factors. It may be as well that there's unconfessed sin, unbiblical attitudes we harbor toward others or even God Himself. There's one simple word to help us today: \_\_\_\_\_. Sadly, however, while much of the world celebrates Christmas, much of the world ignores the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Again today, the Psalmist reminds us that you are not forgotten, you are not ignored. In fact, He loves you.

Christmas is a yearly reminder that from eternity \_\_\_\_\_ to eternity \_\_\_\_\_ God had a plan to glorify \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ His love for \_\_\_\_\_. When depressed, down, discouraged, do we command ourselves, remind ourselves of the never ending, never failing \_\_\_\_\_ love of Jehovah? He is ever compassionate.

#### I. To Whom Does God Show Compassion?

There is a sense in which He shows compassion to \_\_\_\_\_. This general sense is called the \_\_\_\_\_ grace of God. This grace of God keeps the \_\_\_\_\_ on the planet for now. There's also a \_\_\_\_\_ grace that God has as well. This special grace is reserved for His people, those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him. He holds a bond for, a superior love for a specific group of people. Exodus 33:19. This special grace is reserved for those who consistently are \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Jehovah. What does that person resemble?

#### II. How Does God Show Compassion?

Notice that the Psalmist says His compassion is like a father to his children. Earthly fathers are but a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jehovah

because even the best of dads are filled with inconsistencies and failures.

The image of this Father reminds me of Luke 15 and the parable of the lost sons. Remember, the word "prodigal" means spendthrift. While the younger son squandered all his inheritance, the real "prodigal" in the passage is the father. Remember God the Father emptied heaven of His Son to redeem us. We, too, had all gone into the far country and squandered what our Father had given us. Yet, He continued to watch, to wait and then to run to us. Just like the Luke 15 father understood where his son had been and what he had done, Jehovah perfectly knows us and still has compassion for us.

#### III. Why Does God Show Compassion?

He shows compassion on us because He \_\_\_\_\_ us. He formed us out of dust and knows how weak we are and what it takes to redeem and keep us. He knows we are \_\_\_\_\_ and need \_\_\_\_\_. He even compares us to grass and a flower growing randomly in a field, waiting the wind to blow us down or an animal to devour us. The Hebrew word here is not ADAM (humanity/ground), nor ISH (strong), but ENOSH. It reveals our frailty, revealing an expiration date. We are frail, insignificant beings who fail God and one another. Yet.....verses 17-18.

Christmas message?

# Poinsettias 2021

Charles and Sherry Byrd in memory of Jeff and Mark Byrd.

Jimmy and Margie Thompson

Lynne Howard in appreciation of my family.

Carol Wiseman in memory of Leon Wiseman

June Aldridge in memory of our parents, and Kenneth and Mark Aldridge

Art and Tammy Waymire in memory of Judy Waymire, Eileen Parsons, C.L and Elsie Mangrum

Jack and Nancy Billingsley in memory of Neal Billingsley

Cindy Wilson and Family Poinsettias in memory of Dot and Buddy Sullivan, Claudia and Ned Stephens, and Leroy and Helen Wilson

Sherry Carlson in memory of Carol Chestnut

Johnny Neergaard in memory of Carolyn Neergaard

The Anglins and Allens in appreciation of Jackie and Mary Ann Cooper

The Anglins and Coopers in memory of Randy, Pearl and Julene

Jeff and Robin Cox in memory of Dot and Buddy Sullivan and Mary and Luck Cox

Mike and Carolyn Johnson in memory of Nina Stanford

Joel and Stephanie Barrett in memory of Kenneth Aldridge

Cindy Underwood in memory of Carolyn, Steve and Karla

Morris and Sandra Thompson in memory of Bob and Corrine McGee, James and Vera Thompson

The Wilbanks Family in memory of Wayne and Betty Hollowell, Leslie and Essie Wilbanks and Hugh Hollowell