

## From the Pastor's Heart

*But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.*  
Psalm 86:15 (NASB1995)



Brethren,

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church!

Our Lord understands our limits. He realizes our struggles. He knows how much pressure we can take. He knows what measures of grace and mercy and strength we will require. He knows how we are assembled in every area of our being.

In truth, His expectations are not nearly as unrealistic as ours. When we don't live up to the agenda we have set, we feel like He is going to dump a truckload of judgment on us. But that will not occur. Because His grace is greater than our sin. For you see, God has unleashed His righteous wrath over our sin on His Son. We face consequences when we sin. Yes, we do. But the ultimate judgment of our sin is laid on Jesus, our Lord.

We must learn to understand that, the first hit of our sin is on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Let us learn to love Jesus deeply enough to understand how our sin hurts Him first. Then, let us be free of our confessed sins to God, our Father. He seeks us out in the wilderness of our guilt and shame over our failures to be holy as He is Holy. This is the path and journey of the Christian. To overcome with God's grace, everything that disables us to walk with Him unhindered by the agenda of sin. Our victory is one step at a time – following in the well-defined steps which Jesus laid down for us, while He was here on our behalf in the world. We must grapple with the everlasting truth: God ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts greater than our thoughts.

He Lives!

*Pastor Bill*