

# God Has Given Us MOTHERS

On this Sunday, Mother's Day, I want us to think of this word "Mother" a little differently. There are various things God has given us which we need to be thankful for and value.

**Mercy.** This word is found 269 times in the New King James Bible. Mercy and God are used together fourteen times in the New Testament. Grace and mercy as used only five times and all of those are in the New Testament. It means loving kindness, pity, or compassion. It describes God's attitude toward man, while grace deals with God's actions. We have all been recipients of God's mercy as God did for mankind what they could not do for themselves when God sent His Son to die on the cross.

**Opportunity.** Opportunity is the ability to do. With the Great Commission, the Apostles were told to go out and preach to everybody. Every person had the opportunity to hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized. The Book of Acts records for us the spread of the Gospel and those converted in the first century. Every person who has obeyed the Gospel has done the very same thing. We either heard it preached, studied the written word, had someone to personally teach us, taken a Bible Correspondence Course, or some how came in contact with the Gospel of Christ. What if that opportunity had not existed? What if the Gospel was not for everyone? What if we died before hearing the Gospel? We would be lost! Those with the opportunity today to obey should not delay.

**Time.** Time is measured in fragments of a second, minutes, days, weeks, months, years, and so on. Why? Because it is limited and valuable. It is limited by our time here on this earth, Psalms 90.10. Each day we live means we have one less to live. We should be thankful for the time we have to spend with our families, loved ones, and to serve God. Don't waste your time in "riotous living" or simply delaying your obedience. "In an acceptable time, I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

**Home.** God designed the home to have a mother and a father, Genesis 2.24-25. He intended this relationship to be one of love and companionship. As parents they are to teach and train their children in the ways of the Lord. The building block of every society is the family unit. You destroy that unit and you weaken the society. It was in the home I learned about obedience, work, how to treat others, and God. In return our children learned those same things as they were growing up. If you grew up in a loving, godly home, you were greatly blessed.

**Equality.** Romans 2.11 says God is no "respector of persons" or "does not show partiality." This means God treats everyone the same, fairly. We see this equality in the preaching of the Gospel. Paul was selected to go to the Gentiles, Acts 9. Peter preached to the household of Cornelius which resulted in the first Gentile converts, Acts 10. What if God played favorites or simply arbitrarily decided who would be saved or lost? We would question the justice of God but there would be nothing we could do about it. Thankfully our God is a just God.

**Righteousness.** To be righteous one must have the right standard and live accordingly. In the Bible we see two different approaches to righteousness. One is man seeking to establish his own standard, Romans 10.3. The second, is living by God's standard of righteousness. Man's standard results in idolatry, depravity, situation ethics, and is always changing. Its result is death. God's standard rejects those things and seeks love, justice, mercy. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**Salvation.** To be saved means to be free from the debt of sin. There was only one way for man to be cleansed and made pure. It took the perfect sacrifice, Hebrews 4.15; the perfect example, 1 Peter 5; and the perfect law, James 1.25.

God has blessed us with all of these things. Are you saved today? We hope everyone will take advantage of God's blessings and render obedience to Him today. – Dennis Tucker.