

LORD, Have Mercy

1 Peter 2:9-10

Ephesians 2:1-10

Luke 18:9-14



The Times We Live In (Luke 21:34-36)

★ PRESUMPTION

Goals for 2025 - ☉ Lightening Our Loads (Hebrews 2:1-2; Exodus 1:1-14)

Eternal Purpose of God (Acts 15:18)

A Letter to the Elect

- From the APOSTLE Peter (Luke 10:16).
- To the ELECT *according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father.*
- Sanctified by the Spirit for **obedience** and the sprinkling of the blood of Christ.
- (1:3) God, according to His **abundant mercy** has **begotten us AGAIN!**
- (1:4) To an inheritance - since we are His children - see Romans 8:16-17!
- (1:5-7) God refines us with trials because our faith is more important to Him than a career, money, happiness, and families.
- (1:13-16) God commands that all of His children live holy in all of their conduct.
- (1:18-21) God foreordained the Cross before time began! **MEDITATE!**
- (2:1-3) As newborn babies we are to CRAVE God's Word that we may GROW!
- (2:4-5) We are **living stones** being built up a spiritual house. (Eph 2:20-22)
- (2:5, 9) We are made **royal priests** with duties to perform.
- (2:9) We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special people - saved to proclaim His praises.

A Letter to the Elect: Who Are the Elect? (1 Peter 2:9)

- Chosen by God (Ephesians 1:3-4)
- Called Out of Darkness **INTO** His **Marvelous** Light (1 John 1:6-7; 2:6, 9-11; Ephesians 5:8; John 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8)
- Chosen to Serve Him and His Church as Royal Priests
- Chosen to Proclaim His Praises (Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 73:28; 107:22; 118:17; 71:18; 145:4; Revelation 15:3))
- Chosen to Be a Citizen of His Holy Nation (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Thess 4:7)
- Chosen to Be His Own Special People (Titus 2:14)

ONCE Not a People But Now . . . (1 Peter 2:10)

- God's Special People
- The family of God - who are they?
 - (Matthew 12:49-50) . . . Matthew 7:21
- God our Father - Ephesians 4:6; Matthew 6:9
 - To be born-again means that God is our Father. Our *rebirth* is by the HIS will - NOT MAN! BUT because of His **abundance mercy** (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3)
 - ✗ EITHER God is your father OR the Devil is your father. (1 John 3:10; John 8:44)
- Christ, our Brother - Came to die for His brethren (His people)
 - (Matthew 1:21) He came to save **HIS PEOPLE** from their sins.
 - (Hebrews 2:11-14) Christ died for His Brethren.

ONCE Those Who Had No Mercy But Now . . . (1 Peter 2:10)

- “obtained mercy” is in the **PASSIVE VOICE!** Mercy is something bestowed upon us freely. Mercy is not something we ourselves obtain!
- **GRACE** and **MERCY** have become “religious” words and have been robbed of their **BIBLICAL** meanings! As a result, **many** have put their trust in **FALSE GOSPELS** (Galatians 1:6-9).
- The difference between GRACE and MERCY:
 - ☆ **GRACE:** God bestowing on undeserved creatures that which they do not deserve – **ETERNAL LIFE and PEACE** with Him! (Romans 5:1, 10; 8:1; 10:15; Ephesians 2:1-10, 14-17; **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**; 1 Peter 3:18)
The Gospel message—

“BE RECONCILED TO GOD”

- ☆ **MERCY:** God **NOT** bestowing on undeserved creatures that which they deserve – **HIS CONDEMNATION and WRATH.** (John 3:18, 36; Psalm 2:12; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; 1 Thess 5:9; Rev 6:16-17)
 - To understand God's mercy one must see sin as God sees sin.
 - ★ God granting a sinner mercy is much, much different from a human judge granting mercy on a criminal..
 - Human judges **ignore** the Law when they are merciful – compromising their **oath** to uphold the Law of the land and to be impartial! His mercy costs him nothing. (Deut. 1:16-18; 16:18-19; Lev 19:15; 2 Chronicles 19:7).
 - GOD IS NOT A RESPECTER of PERSONS. (Acts 10:34; Deuteronomy 10:17; Job 34:19; 37:22-24; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; 1 Peter 1:17)
 - GOD **MUST** UPHOLD HIS LAW. (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23a)
 - GOD CANNOT and WILL NEVER OVERLOOK A **SINGLE SIN!**

- GOD IS ANGRY AT SINNERS and THAT **HOLY** ANGER must be APPEASED before He can LOVE the SINNER! (John 3:36; Psalm 5:5; 7:11) His anger must be **PROPITIATED** (appeased).
- ★ GOD, who is holy, cannot and will not deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)
- GOD CANNOT BESTOW AN OUNCE OF MERCY WITHOUT EXACTING 100% OF HIS JUSTICE.
 - ★ GOD's mercy COST HIM a GREAT SACRIFICE!
 - ★ **THIS HE DID BY SENDING HIS SON.** (1 John 4:10)
 - ★ God sacrificed His own Son (Isaiah 53:10) to APPEASE His anger toward His Elect! GOD DID EVERYTHING!
 - He offered up His Sacrifice on the behalf of **His** people! (Isaiah 53:10; Acts 2:23; 4:28; 1 Peter 1:20)
- ★ It is because of **HIS** work that I am found without sin and the possessor of HIS righteousness! — **THIS IS MERCY in the courts of GOD!**
 - (Hebrews 8:12) "I will be **merciful** to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" "merciful" is the Greek word "ἡλεωσ" hileos {hil'-eh-oce} means 'propitious'. (**ISAIAH 43:25**)
- ★ God does not do this for EVERYONE! ONLY to whom He pleases. (Rom 9:16-18)

The Pharisee and the Tax-Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

Two Men (v. 10)

- BOTH came to the Temple to pray.
- BOTH spoke their prayers to GOD.
- **BUT** only ONE was JUSTIFIED (declared righteous).

The Pharisee (vv. 11-12)

- The Pharisee was a RELIGIOUS man.
- The Pharisee was a RESPECTABLE man in the community and Temple.
- The Pharisee fasted twice a week and tithed all that God had given him.
- The Pharisee appeared to be a RIGHTEOUS man.
- The Pharisee prayed a LONG prayer.

The Tax Collector (v. 13)

- The tax collector was a DESPISED man in the community and Temple.
- The tax collector did not appear to others as a RIGHTEOUS man.
- The tax collector prayed the SHORTEST prayer in the Bible – six words in the Greek.

The GREAT Sin of the Pharisee

- The greatest sin of this Pharisee is that he compared himself with others – "God, I thank You that I am not like **other men** . . ." This is called **PRIDE**.

- He **assumed** that in God's sight he was better than other men.
- He **supposed** that sin is measured solely by its quantity and weight.
- He did not consider "to whomever is given much, much is required" - Luke 12:48.
- He did not consider that a sin of a true believer is a much more serious matter than a sin of an unbeliever.
- He EXALTED himself! • He TRUSTED in himself • He DESPISED others!
- **He DID KNOW GOD!**

The Tax Collector's Prayer

- The FIRST word is "GOD", the LAST word is "**the** SINNER" and "MERCY" is in between. (The definite article is in the Greek. See 1 Timothy 1:15)
- The tax collector understood that he was a SINNER *in the sight of God*. Consider Genesis 6:5.
- The tax collector understood that he was no better than any one else. (See 1 Corinthians 4:7; 15:10)
- He understood that the wages of sin is DEATH. (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23)
- The tax collector understood that GOD was HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. (Isaiah 6:3)
- He knew that God was SOVEREIGN and mercy belonged to Him. (Rom 9:16,18)
- The tax collector compared himself to GOD and not others. (Matthew 5:48)
- The tax collector came in HUMILITY before God.
 - ★ Humility is NOT thinking lowly of oneself. Humility is not thinking of yourself at all. (Consider Luke 9:23)
- The tax collector's sin BOTHERED him GREATLY.
- The more we understand GOD and His LOVE the MORE hateful, distasteful, abominable, corrupt, ugly, wretched, polluted, etc. becomes even the "least" of our sins.
- MERCY was **EVERYTHING** to this sinner!!
- **BUT** this sinner understood that before God can show Himself merciful to any sinner He **must** receive a **full** satisfaction for His justice.
- The tax collector understood that what he was asking for was NOT CHEAP!
- The tax collector asked for NOTHING but MERCY – he didn't even ask for GRACE.
 - **MERCY:** Not receiving what we deserve — God's wrath.
 - **GRACE:** Receive what we do not deserve — God's love.

How Do I Know I Have Obtained God's Mercy?

- Do I Fear God? (Psalm 103:11, 13, 17)
- Do I Love God? (Exodus 20:5-6; John 14:15, 21, 23-24)
- Do I Obey God? (Deut 5:9-11; 7:9; Neh 1:5; Daniel 9:4; 1 John 5:3)
- Who Am I? The Pharisee or the Tax Collector