

Merciful God



BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

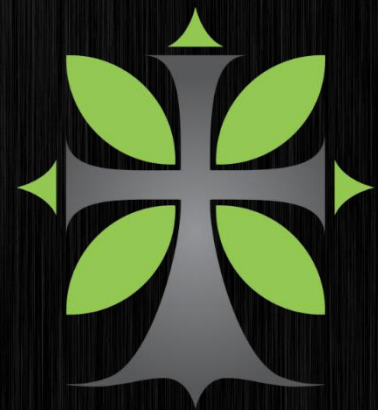
- A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
- My favorite question to get to know others spiritually is “What attribute of God is especially dear to you right now?”
- Story #1 – Mitchell
- Story #2 – Brad and Bonnie
- Story #3 – Bud



What is Mercy?

Simple Definition – Mercy is God’s withholding from us what we deserve.
(Complements God’s grace – which gives us what we have not earned and do not deserve.)

Systematic Definition – “God’s goodness toward those in misery and distress.”



What is Mercy?

Jim Berg – “Rescuing someone from his miserable condition.”

3 Parts of a Biblical Definition of Mercy

- Miserable or Pitiful Condition
- Kind or Good Intervention
- Some Degree of Help or Rescue



God of Mercy

God's mercy, grace and patience are often presented together.

- *Exodus 34:6 – Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.”*
- *Psalms 103:8 – The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.*



God of Mercy

When portrayed alone, God's mercy is usually connected to human distress.

- *2 Samuel 24:14 – Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great . . .”*
- *Matthew 9:27 – As Jesus went from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”*



God of Mercy

3 Levels of Misery

(God is More than Enough by Jim Berg)

- 3rd Level of Misery – Condition of physical and emotional suffering.
- 2nd Level of Misery – Condition of a believer out of fellowship with God.
- Ultimate Misery – Condition of the lost in Hell.



God of Mercy

Summary Principle: God is a God of mercy; and His mercy meets us at every level of miserable need.



Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

Pitiful Condition –

Titus 3:3 – For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.



Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

Amazing Mercy –

Titus 3:4 – But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared



Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

3 Key Gospel Mercy Principles

1. Because I am part of the “we” in verse 3, I was in a pitiful condition and was in need of God’s saving mercy.
2. The “But God’s” of Scripture are merciful (and mighty) adversatives.

**Key Principle: No mercy . . .
no Gospel!**



Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

3 Key Gospel Mercy Principles

- 3. Contemplation of our pitiful condition and God's amazing mercy produces good works.**



Mercy and Me

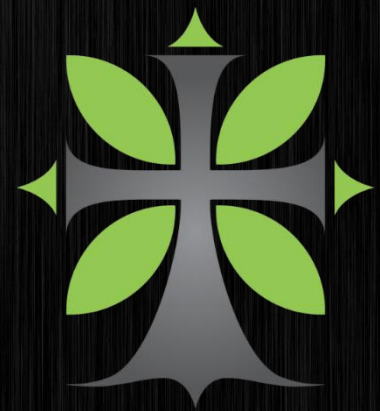
1. 1 Peter 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
2. As Christians, we continually draw near to God seeking mercy . . . and we find mercy.



Mercy and Me

Because mercy is a communicable attribute of God . . .

3. We are to faithfully steward God's comfort and mercy.
4. True religion ministers in mercy to those under the weight of circumstantial hardship.
5. Matthew 5:7 – Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.



Merciful God

Merciful God, O abounding in love,
Faithful to all who draw near You;
Hearing the cries of the humble in heart,
Showing the cross they may cling to.
Broken I come, helpless in sin,
Found at the feet of Your mercy.
Father, forgive; may my sin be
remembered no more.



Merciful God

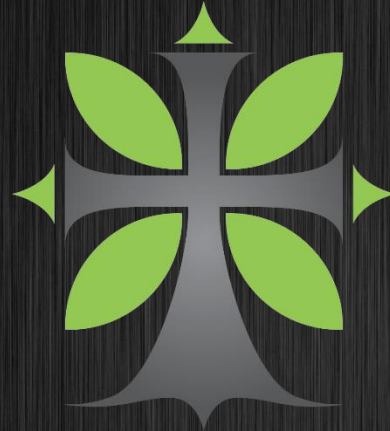
Merciful God, O abounding in love,
Faithful through times we have failed You;
Selfish in thought and uncaring in deed,
Foolish in word and ungrateful.
Spirit of God, conquer our hearts
With love that flows from forgiveness;
Cause us to yield and return to
the mercy of God.



Merciful God

Merciful God, O abounding in love,
Faithful to keep us from falling;
Guiding our ways with Your fatherly heart,
Growing our faith with each testing.
God speed the day struggles will end;
Faultless we'll gaze on Your glory.
Then we will stand overwhelmed by
the mercy of God.





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