



Section 2: Concerning The Godhead (Cont.)

Question 15: Is God merciful?

Answer 15: Yes, God is plenteous in mercy.

Memory Verse: **Psalm 25:10**

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Support Verses: **Micah 7:18**

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Psalm 86:5

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Discussion Points:

1. Defining Mercy:

- Someone is quoted as saying, "Mercy is the disposition that tempers justice... and forbears punishment." This comes directly from Webster definition.
- Webster's 1828 defines "mercy" as, "That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant."
- The Hebrew word is defined as "lovingkindness."
- The Greek word implies, "kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them."
- Mercy does not overlook sin, but rather, recognizes it and satisfies its demand on behalf of the one that is the offender.

2. The relationship of mercy to guilt:

- The fact that you need to be granted mercy shows your guilt.



- The old adage is that "grace is getting what you don't deserve" and "mercy is not getting what you do deserve."
- A very important aspect of mercy is that it is an implied indictment of our condition before it is granted.
- And please understand that mercy does not remove guilt, but rather tempers the justice that is deserved.
- It is a testimony to the goodness of God that we are granted mercy.
- For mercy in every case is undeserved.
- And God in his goodness often goes well beyond mercy, and shows grace, which is His favor shown in the positive, in addition to His restraint of justice.
- These two attributes work so beautifully together
- Consider this great example in Hebrews 4:14-16.
- These two attributes of God are extended to us in the person of Jesus Christ.
- It is by Him alone that we find pardon for sin (mercy) and acceptance (favor) with God.
- It is as a result of who Jesus Christ is that we simultaneously have access to the throne, finding there a God who both receives us on the merits of His son, and bestows on us the blessings that only his son deserves.

3. Mercy is not unconditional.

- Mercy, according to the scripture (Psalm 86:5), is extended to those who ask for it.
- Mercy is offered to those who humble themselves and acknowledge the authority of the one who alone is able to grant it.
- A life of submission and surrender to God (Psalm 25:10) is required.
- Consider Matthew 18:23-35.
- The great demand of justice was met by Jesus Christ, who paid the price (the condition) you could not pay, so you could receive the pardon you do not deserve.

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "And Can It Be" (Hymn - #111 - Rejoice Hymns)
- "Mercies Anew" (Hymn - #94 - Rejoice Hymns)