

Returning to Unshakable Hope – Mercy and Grace

FBCG – January 17, 2021

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

¹⁶ **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

Mercy – Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone who is within one's power to punish or harm.

Ἔλεος (Eleos)

"The Gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales." ~ John Stott

Grace – Free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

χάρις (charin)

"Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home." ~ John Newton

"The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast." ~ Max Lucado

What might be some other examples of mercy and grace?

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV) ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:4-8 (NIV) ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Isaiah 59:1-4 (NIV) ¹ Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. ³ For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. ⁴ No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV) ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Zechariah 7:8-9 (NIV) ⁸ And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: ⁹ "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION

1. Let us not forget the depth and depravity that God has saved us from. Let His love, mercy and grace bring us joy and gratitude in all that we do.
2. Each day let us receive our daily "bread" of mercy and grace from above and let it have a great effect in how we live and help us in our time of need.
3. As we freely receive God's mercy and grace, let's give it out as generously as the Lord gives to us!

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

~ Jerry Bridges