

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY” – Mat 5:7

(CRF – 7/6/86 – EKB)

1. **Psalm 103** A psalm of God’s **mercy and compassion** towards us.
 - v1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.....
 - v2and forget not all His benefits:
 - v3 Who **forgives** all your iniquities; who **heals** all your diseases;
 - v4 Who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with **loving-kindness and tender mercies**;
also v10-13,17.

2. **Psalm 107**
 - v1 O give thanks to the Lord for He is good: for **His mercy** endures forever.
 - v2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...God’s goodness is revealed in His mercy. Let’s proclaim it aloud.

3. Though we were God’s enemies, *Rom 5:10*, when he beheld us heading for eternal hell He was moved by **His mercy and love**, and sent His only begotten Son as the sacrifice for our sins. He has “washed us from our sins in His own blood,” *Rev 1:5*.

“But God, who is **rich in mercy**, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Christ.” *Eph 2:4*, see also *Tit 3:5*.

4. The only reason why we are able to be here today, to rejoice in the blessing and goodness of God, is because **God is a merciful God**, *Jn 1:29*, *Mat 1:21*, *1Pet 2:24*.

5. God solved the problem of our sin, which separated us from His goodness and life, at great cost to Himself. God gave all he had so we could be **forgiven**, reconciled, redeemed, cleansed and delivered, *Rom 8:32*.

6. So “let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may **obtain mercy**, and find grace to help in time of need, *Heb 4:16* . “He will be very gracious unto you at the voice of your cry, when he shall hear it He will answer you,” *Is 30:19*.

7. In *Lk 10:25-37* we read of the **Good Samaritan** who loved his neighbour as himself, v27. His **neighbour** was naked, wounded and half dead, v30, and was a Jew. The Jews called the Samaritans **unclean**. They despised and avoided them. Before this Samaritan could stop and help this desperately needy Jew, he had to have **forgiveness** in his heart for the Jews. He had to have mercy, and be moved by compassion, v33,37. Jesus said **“Go and do likewise,”** v37.

8. **Jesus said**, “Go and learn what this means, I will have mercy and not sacrifice,” (outward religious observance). *Mat 9:13*, *Mat 12:7*. That is, God does not accept our **sacrifices of praise and worship**, *Heb 13:15,16*, unless we are extending to others the mercy he has shown to us.

9. The degree of mercy we will receive at the judgment seat of Christ, *Rom 14:10-13*, will depend upon the extent to which we have been merciful to others, *Jam 2:13*. This principle applies to this life also. The judgment seat of Christ, *Rom 14:10*, *2Cor 5:10*, is the judgment of believers for rewards which occurs soon after the Second Coming of Christ and the

resurrection of the believers, *Lk 14:14, 1Thes 4:16, Rev 20:6*. This is different from the “Great White Throne” judgment of *Rev 20:11-15*. For details see No 29 Pastors’ Notes, pages 10,11.

10. God would be unrighteous to extend mercy to us if we withhold mercy from others. Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy,” *Mat 5:7*. Whatever a man sows, that will he also reap, *Gal 6:7*.
11. In *Mat 18:21-35* Peter asks a question and Jesus gives a parable. “How many times do I have to forgive? Would seven times be sufficient?” Jesus’ reply is “Not seven times, but four hundred and ninety times.” That is more than once every two minutes in a sixteen hour waking day! Quite beyond Peter’s maximum expectation. Jesus’ parable shows us that the extent of God’s forgiveness of us personally, is always far greater than the forgiveness we will be required to extend to others who sin against us. Further, Jesus explains that the results of unforgiveness in our life will bring spiritual disaster, *v34,35*.
12. In *Mat 6:14,15*, Jesus says that God will only forgive us to the extent we forgive others their sins against us. In *Lk 11:4* Jesus instructs us to pray, in the Lord’s prayer, asking for forgiveness to the extent we forgive others. In *Mk 11:25,26* says that our forgiveness of others is especially important when we come to pray to God.
13. **What happens** when we have: unforgiveness or hard feelings toward another, bitterness to someone, a resentment, a grudge, hatred, revenge, feelings of pleasure when another is having a hard time, **looking straight through** someone who has hurt us, when we pass them in the street?

Results:

- God does not forgive us our sins, *Mat 6:14,15*.
 - Our sins remain on us and accumulate daily.
 - Our unforgiven sins become a barrier between us and God, *Is 59:1,2*.
 - God will not, cannot, hear our prayers, *Ps 66:18, Is 59:2, Mk 11:25*. Our prayers go unanswered.
 - Evil influences and powers start to afflict us and torment us, especially in the mind and thought life, *Mat 18:34,35*.
 - Our usefulness and effectiveness in God’s service decreases
 - We are responsible for a disintegration in Christ’s Body.
14. **In obedience to God:** *Eph 4:32*.
 - **Choose** by will choice, to obey God and forgive others.
 - **Release** them from your judgment and condemnation.
 - You are not justifying another’s wrong doing, you are releasing the problem to God to sort it out.
 - **Pray** for those who have caused hurt, *Mat 5:44-48*, that God will show them His way and truth, by the Holy Spirit.