

Lesson Two:

"What is the difference between mercy and grace?"

"What is the grace of God?"

Lesson Recap:

- Mercy and grace are closely related, having similar meanings, but are not exactly the same.
- Mercy has to do with kindness and compassion; it is often spoken of in the context of God's not punishing us as our sins deserve.
- Grace includes kindness and compassion, but also carries the idea of bestowing a gift or favor. **Deuteronomy 4:30-31; 1 Timothy 1:13.**
- The Bible confirms we have all sinned. **Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8.**
- As a result of that sin, we all deserve death, and also eternal judgment in the lake of fire: **Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:12-15.**
- Every day we live is an act of God's mercy. Therefore, we must also learn, know, and realize that when we plead (prayer) for God's mercy, we are asking Him to show kindness and withhold the just judgment we deserve.
- What good we experience is a result of the grace of God. **Ephesians 2:5.**
- Grace is simply defined as "*unmerited favor*"—in blessing us with good things that we do not deserve and could never earn.
- **Common** grace refers to the blessings that God bestows on all of mankind regardless of their spiritual standing before Him.
- **Saving** grace is that special blessing whereby God sovereignly bestows unmerited divine assistance upon His elect for their regeneration and sanctification.
- Mercy and grace are evident in the salvific action that is available through Jesus Christ alone. In Christ we receive **eternal** salvation, forgiveness of sins, and abundant life—all gifts of grace. **John 10:10**
- Our response to the mercy and grace of God should be to fall on our knees in worship and thanksgiving. **Hebrews 4:16**
- Grace culminates in the New Testament with the coming of Jesus. **John 1:17**
- The word translated "grace" in the New Testament means "*favor, blessing, or kindness.*" **Ephesians 2:8**
- The only way any of us can enter into a relationship with God is because of His grace toward us.
- Grace began in the Garden of Eden when God killed an animal to cover the sin and nakedness of Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3:21**
- This act of God on earth is not an afterthought. The divine plan of redemption was in existence before the world began. **2 Timothy 1:9**
- That pattern of grace continued throughout the Old Testament when God instituted blood sacrifices as a means to atone for sinful men.
- It was not the physical blood of those sacrifices, per se, that cleansed sinners; it was the mercy and grace of God that forgave those who trusted in Him.
- Sinful men showed their faith (trust in God) by offering the sacrifices that God required. **Hebrews 10:4; Genesis 15:6.**
- God is the instigator of grace, and it is from Him that all other grace flows.
- God shows both mercy and grace, but they are not the same.
- Mercy withholds a punishment we deserve; grace gives a blessing we don't deserve. **Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21.**
- God goes even further than mercy and extends grace to His enemies. **Romans 5:10.**
- He offers us forgiveness **Hebrews 8:12; Ephesians 1:7.**
- Other benefits of God's grace:
 - Reconciliation - **Colossians 1:19-20**
 - Abundant life - **John 10:10**
 - Eternal treasure - **Luke 12:33**
 - His Holy Spirit - **Luke 11:13**
- And a place in heaven with Him some day when we accept His offer and place our faith in His sacrifice.
- **John 3:16-18**
- Grace is God giving the greatest treasure to the least deserving—which is every one of us.