

August 12, 2020

The Mercies of God

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God...” In our last meditation, we focused on Paul’s beseeching or imploring of the brethren. This week we will consider the foundation for his plea, the mercies of God.

Mercy can be defined as God withholding what we justly deserve in terms of judgment for sin. Read **Lamentations 3:21-23**. When Jeremiah remembered the mercy of God, it gave him hope. If God judged us according to our sin, we would be consumed. Romans 6:23, “The wages of sin is death.” Anything less is the pure mercy of God. Verse 23 reminds us that God’s mercies are new every day. Consider **Deuteronomy 7:9**. A generation is approximately 25 years. A thousand generations would then be 25,000 years. Christ was crucified a little over 2,000 years ago. That is a little over 80 generations ago. The phrase, a thousand generations, was not meant to set a definite time, but to teach the limitlessness of God’s faithfulness and mercy. Paul is not pleading on the basis of his own merit, but on the infiniteness of God’s mercy. The fact that we, as believers, will spend eternity in heaven instead of hell, is the ultimate example of God’s infinite mercy. Whatever instruction is about to follow, whatever Paul is going to ask us to do, we are only to do it after giving serious consideration to the mercy of God.

Turn to **Deuteronomy 5**. If you have been faithfully reading the weekly meditations, you will recognize this chapter as the second listing of the Ten Commandments. Read **verse 10**. What commandment is this verse associated with? God promises to visit or judge the iniquity of idolatry to the third and fourth generation. Four generations would be 100 years. But to those who repent and obey God’s Word, He promises to show mercy, even if they are guilty.

In what way has God extended mercy to you? If it were not but for the mercy of God, how might your life be different today? Be specific in your answers. If you cannot see the mercy of God in your own life, it is unlikely that you will take seriously the admonition to follow. In fact, if it were not for the mercy of God, we would not be able to do what Paul is going to ask us to do. Read **Psalms 103:8-18** and then take a few moments to thank God for His mercy in your life.