

Mercy

Mercy appears 273 times in the KJV Bible unlike most of the false religions in the world which worship idols and gods that show no mercy, love or compassion. The one and only true God, the God of the Bible is “*The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. . .*” (Exo. 34:6, 7).

God is *light* (1 Joh 1:5) and God is *love* (1 Joh 4:8). When the holy light of God reveals the sin and wickedness in the heart of man, His Divine love caused Him to show mercy to the guilty. He tells us that “*there is none that doeth good, no not one*” and that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom 3:12, 23). In mercy God sent His beloved Son Jesus to die on the cross for sin. “*The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world*” (1 Joh 4:14). He now offers mercy, promising forgiveness of sins of those who repent and by faith believe what Jesus has done at Calvary’s cross.

Suppose a man were convicted of a crime which carried the death penalty. While on death row, his lawyer files appeal after appeal to stop the state from executing the guilty man. But all appeals are rejected and finally the day for his execution comes. Minutes before the sentence is to be carried out, the governor of the state decides to stop the execution of the condemned man, commuting his sentence to life in prison. The convicted man’s life is spared through the *mercy* of the governor. The criminal did not receive the penalty of death that *his crime deserved*. That is *mercy*.

Suppose further that another message from the governor is received by the criminal whose death sentence was commuted to life in prison. In this message the governor notifies the criminal that has completely pardoned him. Not only will the criminal be released from prison, but the governor has invited him to live with the governor in his home for the rest of his life! The pardon and offer of a place to live is *grace*—the criminal is receiving great kindnesses that he *does not deserve*.

In the Bible there are many examples of mercy and grace. The Lord was *merciful* to Lot, not destroying Sodom until the reluctant Old Testament saint had been pulled out of Sodom by the angels of God (see Gen 19:16).

Joseph was both *merciful* and *gracious* to his guilty brothers. They deserved to be punished for what they did to Joseph, but he let them go free. That is *mercy* because they didn’t get what they deserved. Afterwards Joseph gave his father Jacob and his brothers the very best land in Egypt to make their home. That is *grace*, for they got wonderful, rich blessings they did not deserve.