

GOD'S MERCY **(Psalm 51:1)**

Mercy – There are actually three Hebrew words in the O.T. for the word mercy. Together they define mercy as : to be gracious, to show favor, to show pity, to show kindness, faithfulness, to love, to be compassionate, and to have tender affection.

The way mercy is used throughout the bible we can understand that God's mercy provides all that mankind needs both physically and spiritually in life.

The word mercy and all words derived from the root word mercy is found 394 times in the bible. It becomes pretty obvious that this attribute of God is very important to Him if used so often in the bible.

THE MERCY SEAT

Exodus 25:17-22: Leviticus 16:11-17 In order to understand the mercy of God toward people today we need to understand “the mercy seat” that God commanded to be built for His Tabernacle. The “mercy seat” functioned in four ways **1.** God promised to meet them there **2.** God promised to instruct them there **3.** God promised to appear to them there **4.** God promised mercy and forgiveness there.

Romans 3:21-26 Today God's mercy and forgiveness comes to us through Jesus Christ (**our mercy seat**) through His propitiation and redemptive work on the cross. **1.** In Jesus we meet with God **John 14:6** **2.** God appears to us in Jesus Christ **John 14:9** **3.** God speaks to us through Jesus **Hebrews 1:2** **4.** In Jesus Christ is where sinners are forgiven and made right with God **Romans 3:23-24**.

WHO GETS MERCY

There is a threefold distinction that needs to be made regarding who gets God's mercy today.

- 1. Acts 17:24-25** There is first of all a general mercy of God which extends to all men, believers and non-believers, animals, and His entire creation.
- 2. Matthew 5:45** Secondly, there is that mercy from God which He gives toward mankind in order to help them live and eat and survive on the earth. He gives them reason and senses to figure out normal everyday things and to recognize His Headship.
- 3. Romans 10:9-10** Thirdly, there is God's sovereign mercy that He gives to those that choose to trust His word and the gospel of Jesus Christ and they become heirs of salvation.

Psalm 100:3-5 It is important to note that the mercies of God for His people lasts forever. However, the mercy he gives the unbelievers is of a temporal nature and for this life only. His mercy will end at death for those that are lost and His justice will take over at their judgment (**Isaiah 27:11**).

WHO NEEDS MERCY

Psalm 85:7; Titus 3:5 Every person that ever lived or will live needs God's mercy for salvation.

Psalm 51:1; I John 1:9 We all need His mercy for forgiveness when we fail Him.

Psalm 25:16; Luke 18:1-6 God has mercy for us when we are afflicted physically or spiritually.

Psalm 27:7 If we cry unto the Lord with our heartfelt prayers He has mercy on us and hears us.

Psalm 90: 14 God has mercy for those of us that are seeking a joyful heart and happy life.

Psalm 59:16; 136:24 God has mercy for us that need His help from our enemies and trials.

We ought to pray daily for God's mercy not only for ourselves but for those we know need the Savior, for those that are hurting spiritually, physically or emotionally. God's mercy should be extended to the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, our friends, neighbors and even our enemies.

