

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – May 25

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTERS 18 & 19

The Mercy of God/The Grace of God

*I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion
(Exodus 33:19 b).*

For you are a gracious and merciful God (Nehemiah 9:31 b).

*Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions (Psalm 51:1 NKJV).*

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect.
No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me (1 Corinthians 15:10).*

*He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—
to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves (Ephesians 1:5-6).*

*But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ
even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5).*

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).*

1) When do you struggle seeing or accepting the mercy of God in your own life?

(Please be honest with yourself!)

2a) How would you define mercy?

“Mercy is the goodness of God confronting human suffering and guilt.” A.W. Tozer

If you don't have a copy of Tozer's book, you can read it online: www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

2b) How would you define grace?

“In God mercy and grace are one; but as they reach us they are seen as two, related but not identical.”
A.W. Tozer

In his book, *The Attributes of God*, A.W. Pink gives helpful insight into how we might understand the difference between mercy and grace. He calls us to look at unfallen angels as an example. These angels have not experienced mercy, but they do experience grace continuously (they are sovereignly kept from following Satan in rebellion)!

3) A.W. Pink writes, “even the casting of the reprobate into the Lake of Fire is an act of *mercy*.” (Please read Revelation 21:27; Psalm 143:2; Psalm 136:15; Revelation 19:1-3). **How can this be true?!**

Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:10 a)

4) “To receive mercy we must first know that God is merciful” writes Pastor Tozer (Psalm 116:5). **On the surface this may seem obvious, but how has Gospel-proclamation today shifted from this awesome truth?**

5) Which of the following would you place under the “category” of grace?

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| justification (Rom 3:24; Eph 2:5) | forgiveness (Eph 1:7) | fruits of the Spirit (John 1:16) |
| sanctification (2 Cor 1:12) | obedience (2 Cor 12:9) | suffering (Eph 3:2) |
| glorification (1 Peter 5:10) | perseverance (2 Tim 2:1) | encouragement (2 Thess 2:16) |
| faith (Acts 18:27) | humility (Prov 3:34) | generosity (2 Cor 8:7) |
| conviction of sin (Zech 12:10) | giftedness (Rom 12:6) | Scripture (Acts 20:32) |
| repentance (Acts 5:31) | good works (1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 9:8) | |

6) What motivates God’s grace? (See Ephesians 1:5-6.)

7) **Do we see Christ's mercy displayed or reflected in nature? If so, how?**

8) Psalm 51:1 (NKJV) and Luke 1:78 beautifully describe God's mercy as "tender." **What would happen if His mercy towards us was not gentle?** (In other words, what if God meets our desperate need but in the process He overpowers us?) As an analogy, consider what would happen to a diabetic with low blood sugar who drinks a quart of Coke syrup!

Mercy "disposes God to be actively compassionate." A.W. Tozer

9) Tozer asks, "Could our failure to capture the pure joy of mercy consciously experienced be the result of our unbelief or our ignorance, or both?" **What say you?**

10a) Pastor Tozer says that some see the Old Testament as "the book of Law" and the New Testament as "the book of Grace." **Why is this a distorted view of the Bible (see Matthew 5:18; Hebrews 11:24)?**

10b) Tozer goes on to say, "grace made sainthood possible in Old Testament days just as it does today." **How is this possible?**

"the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:8b).

11) A.W. Tozer writes, "we can never know the enormity of our sin, neither is it necessary that we should. What we can know is that 'where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.'" **Would you agree?**

12) Mercy and grace are attributes of God. **Will there ever be a time when we will no longer need God's mercy and grace? What about when we get to Heaven?**

13) **How might we better show grace and mercy to others, thus bringing honor to Jesus (Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7; Romans 12:1)?**

*For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.
Hosea 6:6*