

## “GOD’S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS” – MERCY

**Mercy** is seldom offered by humans to those who need it most...the more it's needed (the more undeserving someone is), often the less it's given---**this is the opposite of how God gives mercy.** [see 1 Tim. 1:15,16 below]

Heb: [**chesedh**] define: “an act of kindness, love, or mercy shown to someone which is of a quality that is normally reserved for close friends & family members...the person exercising **chesedh** has **chosen** to treat the recipient in this way, whether or not any such formal relationship exists.” Spiros Zodhiates

\*One of the most important words in the O.T. (**248** times), it is a combination of **mercy** & **grace** in the N.T. and speaks of choosing to treat someone better than they deserve.

Gr: [**eleos**] define: “having compassion upon someone because of the effects / results of sin & being moved to act on their behalf; not giving them what they deserve.”

Used **59** times in N.T. (in noun & verb forms)

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### MERCY IS CENTRAL TO GOD’S CHARACTER.

When God told Moses what His name means [His glory], He said:

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, **abounding in mercy** [chesedh] and faithfulness....**maintaining mercy** [chesedh] to thousands” **Ex. 34:6,7**  
(more than enough) (self-sustaining)

**Neh 9:30,31** (concerning consequences of Israel’s disobedience & God’s mercy toward them.)

“Yet for many years You had patience with them, and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless in Your great **mercy** You *did not utterly consume them nor forsake them* (which is what they deserved); because You are God, gracious and **merciful**.”

#### **Psalms 136**

“...His **mercy** [chesedh] endures forever.” (repeated **26** times!! )

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### MERCY IS GOD’S MOTIVATION FOR OUR OWN SALVATION.

#### **Eph. 2:3-5**

(more than enough)

“...we all once... were by nature children of God’s wrath...But God, who is **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

#### **1 Tim. 1:15,16** (from Paul)

“This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**, of whom I am **chief**. However, **for this reason I obtained mercy**, so that in me Jesus Christ might demonstrate His patience, as a prime example for those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” ( God deliberately picked the worst sinner ! )

#### **Titus 3:5**

“...He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but **because** of (motivated by) His **mercy**.”

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TO GOD, MERCY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE LAW (what God requires of humans to be righteous) BECAUSE IT IS LIKE GOD HIMSELF

#### **Matt. 23:23**

“woe to you, scribes & Pharisees, for you pay tithe (etc....) and have neglected **the more important matters of the law**: justice, **mercy**, and faithfulness. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone.”

#### **Luke 6:36**

“Be **merciful** just as [*in the same way as*] your Father is merciful.”

**James 2:13** “...judgement without **mercy** will be shown to anyone who has shown no **mercy**. [But] **Mercy triumphs** [gladly rejoices] over judgement !” ( **Why** does God view **mercy** this way? )