

## Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment

James 2:13

### Introduction

1. All of us can recall a time we wronged someone, and shamefully and fearfully anticipated whatever consequences would come from such a betrayal, only for them to show mercy to us, and forgive us of our wrong.
    - a. In such a case, mercy triumphed over judgment.
  2. Every child of God especially is filled with gratitude for His triumphant mercy. All have sinned, and are worthy of death, but God said, **“I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12).**
  3. The Christian should constantly reflect on the triumphant mercy of God, take comfort and encouragement in it, and lead a life that reflects such understanding.
- I. A Divine Dilemma
- A. God is Just
    - a. God will judge – **Ecclesiastes 12:14**
    - b. God’s judgment is just – **Psalm 51:4** – He makes no mistakes in judgment, nor does He have malevolent motives.
    - c. God’s just judgment is certain:
      - i. **Habakkuk 1:13** – the prophet appealing to God’s known character. (Habakkuk did not understand God’s use of Babylon) – GOD CANNOT AND WILL NOT LET EVIL GO.
      - ii. **Psalm 11:4-7** – The Lord knows all and will render to each man according to His righteousness or wickedness.
    - d. **Romans 3:9-10, 23** – there is none righteous.
  - B. God Does Not Want Any to Perish
    - a. **Ezekiel 18:23, 32** – God takes no pleasure in the punishment of men.
    - b. He wants men to be saved – **1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**
    - c. Such is a product of His mercy →
- II. A Divine Solution
- A. God is Abundant in Mercy
    - a. **Psalm 86:5** – abundant in mercy.
    - b. Mercy:
      - i. “to be greatly concerned about someone in need” (BDAG)
      - ii. “to feel sympathy with the misery of another,” and especially sympathy manifested in act” (VINE)
      - iii. "The outward manifestation of pity: it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it" (VINE)
      - iv. God has the pity and desire to help, and the resources to meet the need.
    - c. **2 Corinthians 1:3** – Father of mercies.
    - d. **Ephesians 2:4** – rich in mercy.

- e. **Psalm 103:17** – mercy from everlasting to everlasting.
- III. Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment
- A. God's Mercy is More Powerful than His Judgment
    - a. **James 2:13** – triumphs over judgment.
      - i. **Triumphs** – *katakauchaomai*; to exult against (Strong); boast against; to have a cause for boasting because of advantage in power (BDAG).
      - ii. God's mercy has an advantage in power over His judgment.
    - b. **Psalm 51:1-2** – where justice would see the ultimate punishment of David's sin, forgiveness comes through the mercy of God.
    - c. **Romans 5:20** – grace abounded much more.
    - d. If God's mercy were not more powerful than God's justice and judgment then none would have hope.
  - B. Mercy Does Not Negate Judgment
    - a. God having mercy on the sinner does not mean He overlooks the sin or doesn't care about it.
      - i. This is what the world thinks.
    - b. Call to the truth – **1 Timothy 2:4**
    - c. Call to repentance – **2 Peter 3:9**
    - d. Mercy and truth – **Proverbs 16:6** – mercy and truth go hand in hand.
      - i. **Mercy** – God's attitude toward those who are in need of atonement for sin.
      - ii. **Truth** – the place that atonement is provided for and accessed.
      - iii. **Psalm 103:17-18** – shown with conditions.
      - iv. **Galatians 6:16** – mercy upon those who walk according to a certain rule (ordained by God).
  - C. God's Mercy is Specific, Thus Conditional
    - a. The world takes a generic view of God's mercy – all have sinned, but His mercy will keep us from the punishment we deserve.
      - i. While such a statement is true, it is open ended, and that on purpose.
      - ii. God's mercy is not simply applied to all who need it.
      - iii. All need God's mercy, but it is applied to all who meet it where God offers it.
        - 1. **Romans 9:15, 18** – not suggesting God arbitrarily chooses who will be saved and lost, but speaking of His will regarding the people of salvation
        - 2. **Romans 9:22-28** – includes both Gentiles and Jews.
        - 3. **Romans 9:30-33** – considers the SPECIFIC nature of God's mercy – by faith in Christ.
    - b. Location:
      - i. **Galatians 6:16** – mercy to those walking according to a certain rule.

1. **Galatians 6:12-15** – conflict of Judaizing teachers binding circumcision as a condition of salvation.
2. **(v. 15)** – IN CHRIST JESUS (location), a new creation avails.
- ii. Christ is the One through whom God offers mercy:
  1. **Isaiah 55:3** – sure mercies of David.
  2. Paul connected such with Jesus (Antioch in Pisidia in the synagogue on the Sabbath after reading of the Law and Prophets) (progresses through Israelite history) – **Acts 13:22-23, 32-34**
- iii. **Galatians 6:15-16** – rule involves a “new creation.”
  1. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – in Christ – new creation.
  2. **Galatians 3:26-27** – baptized into Christ
  3. **Romans 8:1** – no condemnation.
  4. But hope – **1 Peter 1:3** – “begotten us again” (new birth/creation) – according to His mercy.
- iv. THE MERCY OF GOD IS NOT GENERIC, BUT SPECIFIC, I.E. IN CHRIST.
- c. Manner of life:
  - i. **Jonah 2:8** – can forsake mercy.
  - ii. Forsake mercy by showing no mercy – **James 2:13**
  - iii. Forsake mercy through unfaithfulness – **1 John 2:3-6** – if mercy is only in Christ, we must abide in Him, but to be disobedient is to lie about abiding in Him.

### Conclusion

1. God’s mercy is a wonderful thing for all who have sinned. It means that we will not be given the punishment that is due our sin.
2. However, while God’s mercy triumphs over judgment, it must be accessed according to God’s will.
3. If we are to be recipients of God’s triumphant mercy, we must be in Christ and remain in Him.