

MARVELS OF GOD'S MERCY & GRACE

Psa 145:8-9; 85:10; 118:23

INTRODUCTION:

- A. "Marvel" and "Marvelous" found many times in Bible
- B. Def: Wonderful, admirable, amazing. Jim Sasser remembered in Nigeria when a high US official was assassinated He mentioned it to one of his Nigerian colleagues and his reply was "wonderful" Of course, meaning amazing
- C. "Mercy", "Mercies", "Merciful" found many times in Bible
- D. Definiton: An outward manifestation of pity Assumes a need on part of one who receives it; a show of compassion To be graciously inclined with loving kindness
- E. Distinction between mercy and grace: mercy = forgoing punishment deserved; grace = reward undeserved
- E. Many wonders or marvels of ancient world: Pyramids of Egypt, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Colossus of Rhodes, Temple of Diana, Etc. Admire marvels of man's ingenuity and natural wonders But wonders of God's mercy & grace without comparison. Wonders or marvels of God's grace:
- F. Over 40 years ago a little statement appeared in the daily papers under the heading of Hambone's meditations by JP Alley One of these little statements said: "Ef some de folks whut's alluz yell'n fuh "jestice" wuz to git it, de nex' thing you know dey'd be yellin' fuh mercy!!!"

DISCUSSION:

I. MANIFESTS INTEREST AT ALL IN MAN

- A. Man is but the "dust" of the earth Psa 8:3,4; 103:14
- B. Yet he is made in God's image, Gen 1:26
- C. Man possesses a soul more valuable than treasures of earth, Matt 16:26

II. SHOULD FORGIVE US AT ALL

- A. He might have dealt with us according to law and Justice - according to our just deserts Psa 103:10-13
- B. Bible reveals man sinned against God, and without cause
 - 1. Then, why should man expect God, so badly insulted, to forgive?
 - 2. Hence it is amazing and marvelous that God should be so merciful Rom 5:7,8; Jno 15:25

III. NOT ONLY FORGIVES BUT TRANSFORMS SINNER

- A. "Scarlet" (Isa 1:18) in Hebrew, means: "double-dyed" or "twice dipped", signifying deep-fixed permanency of sin
- B. It is said no power in chemistry can take the scarlet out without destroying the fabric
- C. Only the blood of Christ can remove the deep fixed permanency of sin in man 1Jhn 1:7;

IV. CONDESCENDS TO REASON WITH SINNERS

- A. Throughout the Bible God appeals to man's reason and better judgment Isa 1:18; Matt 11:28
 - 1. Reveals Gods deep concern for us If only we will reason with God through the Bible, there is no doubt we will be recipients of His marvelous mercy
 - 2. God wants us to be saved He has made provisions for our salvation and invited us to "come" 2Pet 3:9
- B. But man refuses God's call What about our attitude toward God's call to us? Prov 1:24; Isa 65:2; Rom 10:21
- C. Think of kindnesses God extended to Jews and what he has done for us
 - 1. Yet we and they turned a deaf ear
 - 2. God still says: "Come now, and let us reason together"

V. BEARS PATIENTLY WITH REFUSALS

- A. Greatest marvel of all is the longsuffering mercy of God
- B. Jews refused – Jesus wept over them Matt 23:37
- C. God does not want the wicked to die Ezk 33:11
- D. God waited over one hundred years before the flood 1Pet 3:20

VI. FORGIVES & TRANSFORMS ON SUCH EASY TERMS

- A. The commandments of the Lord are not grievous; they are not unreasonable Matt 11:28-30; Rom 12:1,2
- B. Compliance with conditions of pardon is easy; They are plainly and clearly revealed Hear Rom 10 17; Believe Jhn 8:24; Repent, Lk 13:3; Confess, Matt 10:32,33; Be Baptized, Acts 2::38 Have we become too sophisticated in this day and time to tell the simple story of God's plan

VII.GIVES BLESSINGS UNDESERVED IN THIS LIFE AND ETERNAL REWARD IN HEAVEN

- A. Physical blessings Matt 6:25-34
- B. Eternal life in heaven Matt 25:46

CONCLUSION:

- A. Many other things we could talk about and say they are marvelous
- B. In fact, everything God does is marvelous (In creation "It was very good Gen 1:31)
- C. Seeing these great marvels of God, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? Heb 2:1-3
- D. THE ANSWER: we won't, we can't escape without God's marvelous mercy

(From Jim Sasser some revisions by jlh)