

### **The Wednesday Word, April 24, 2013: Announcements of Mercy**

Have you ever asked yourself why is it that God's people believe the truth of the gospel? The answer is simple. We believe because God persuades us that He is to be trusted (Numbers 23:19). Faith, real faith, has a divine foundation.

As believers, God Himself is our teacher and we learn from Him primarily by reading, listening to and meditating on His word. He is the God who does not lie. His word teaches us, for example, what His mercy is (Psalm 119:41). When trying to discover what mercy is we should let God speak for Himself.

Here then are some announcements from heaven that inform us of God's stunning mercy towards us.

"The Lord is long suffering and of great mercy" (Numbers 14:18).

"His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118:1).

"Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee" (Psalm 86:5).

"Thou art a God full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth" (Psalm 86:15).

"Thy mercy is great unto the heavens" (Psalm 57:10).

"His tender mercies are over all his works" (Psalm 145:9).

"He retains not his anger forever, because he delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18).

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6).

"God, -- is rich in mercy, for the great love wherewith he hath loved us, even when we were dead in sins" (Ephesians 2:4).

"According to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

These are but a few announcements concerning mercy from the One who cannot lie and each of these announcements are faithful and true. Each of them is fresh and life giving! Beware of saying, "I know these verses! What use is it to read and meditate on them?" When I hear words like that, I catch the sound of alarm bells! This is the thinking of someone who has become too familiar with the gospel and his familiarity is blocking the life of the Word from reaching his soul. This kind of familiarity with the things of God is a spiritual death sentence!

The announcements listed above are declarations of the riches of God's mercy! Through the gracious ministry of the Holy Spirit, we read them as if it were the first time we have heard them. The mind of God towards us is wrapped up in these faithful announcements, and it is out of words like these that the Spirit ministers grace and peace to us. These verses are God's personal messengers to us. If they don't minister peace to you, read them again. If you still can't find peace through them, read them again. If you still find nothing, meditate on them again for, "The word of God is quick and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12). "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the

rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29).

John Newton, the writer of the classic hymn, ‘Amazing Grace’ was a man who lived in the life of the scriptures. He knew a thing or two about mercy! Right before he died, he said to a friend, “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Saviour.”

Newton was a man who had listened to and believed the Divine Announcements. He never forgot that he owed his redemption entirely to the mercy of God. He made this clear in the following epitaph he wrote for himself and had written on his tomb.

‘John Newton  
Once an Infidel and Libertine,  
A Servant of Slaves in Africa,  
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
Preserved, restored and pardoned,  
And appointed to preach the faith  
He had long laboured to destroy.’

And that’s the Gospel Truth!