

December 13, 2021

The Gifts of Christ: We have mercy given.

Ps. 103:10-12 *He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (NIV)*

Ok, just for a few moments, meditate on the last six words of our passage today: He removed our transgressions from us. Just so we can establish the difference here; grace is freely given, unmerited favor. On the other hand, mercy is the kindness and compassion given to us who deserve punishment. There is no doubt that we all deserve the punishment for our sins. I recall that my grandmother used to use this phrase frequently when trying to control her eight-year-old grandson (me): Lord, have mercy!

Actually, she needed grace and I needed mercy. I deserved almost every spanking and time out that I got. Yes, I said spanking. It's scriptural by the way. I'm actually thankful that my Mom and my Grandparents did not withhold discipline when I needed it. At the time, I didn't enjoy it, but it helped shape me and direct me into the person that the Lord wanted me to be. **Heb. 12:11**, **"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."** (NIV) I'm certainly not perfect, but I can't even imagine what I would be like without their correction in my life and the mercy of the Father.

We were guilty of so many sins. We deserved eternal punishment for those sins, but He has removed our transgressions from us. Can I get an Amen?

Dear LORD, We will never be able to thank You enough for Your mercy. We certainly deserve the punishment and penalty of our sins, but You placed all of that upon the Holy, Sinless Lamb of God. You had mercy upon us. Thank You LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen