



Anchor Of The Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

February 2007

Have Mercy On Me, O God

by Casey Head

The vast majority of people have one of two views of God's gift of salvation: either they feel that God owes them and every religious person salvation or they understand that what they actually deserve is eternal punishment. Some will become angry, and even hostile, when we discuss God's justice and wrath and show that there is only one right way to heaven. They will scream, "God won't send good, sincere people to hell!" Others will humbly acknowledge that they deserve hell, and that no amount of goodness and sincerity will earn a person the gift of eternal life. Which position is correct? Obviously the position that accentuates the mercy of God.

First of all, what does it mean that God is merciful? Mercy is defined as "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. It is used of God who is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4)." In other words, when God delivers sinful man from the punishment that he deserves, He has acted mercifully. Many passages prove the mercy of God (i.e. Titus 3:5).

Some people may still misunderstand the mercy of God, assuming that mercy overlooks sin and allows wicked people access to heaven, but this is not the case. Mercy provides a way to escape the condemnation we deserve, which means that we must respond to God's call and obey His commands to obtain the gift of His mercy.

What is your attitude towards the mercy of God? Do you feel that you are basically good enough and moral enough and that God owes you salvation? If this is your attitude, repent! God will accept the humble (Jam. 4:6, 10), but will reject the proud. Recognize your dependance upon the Almighty God, and appreciate His character and His gift.

**Daily Bible Reading Schedule-
February 2007**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Ex. 13-14	Mk. 7-8
2	Ex. 15-16	Mk. 9-10
3	Ex. 17-18	Mk. 11-12
4	Ex. 19-20	Mk. 13-14
5	Ex. 21-22	Mk. 15-16
6	Ex. 23-24	Rom. 1-2
7	Ex. 25-26	Rom. 3-4
8	Ex. 27-28	Rom. 5-6
9	Ex. 29-30	Rom. 7-8
10	Ex. 31-32	Rom. 9-10
11	Ex. 33-34	Rom. 11-12
12	Ex. 35-36	Rom. 13-14
13	Ex. 37-38	Rom. 15-16
14	Ex. 39-40	Lk. 1-2
15	Lev. 1-2	Lk. 3-4
16	Lev. 3-4	Lk. 5-6
17	Lev. 5-6	Lk. 7-8
18	Lev. 7-8	Lk. 9-10
19	Lev. 9-10	Lk. 11-12
20	Lev. 11-12	Lk. 13-14
21	Lev. 13-14	Lk. 15-16
22	Lev. 15-16	Lk. 17-18
23	Lev. 17-18	Lk. 19-20
24	Lev. 19-20	Lk. 21-22
25	Lev. 21-22	Lk. 23-24
25	Lev. 23-24	1 Cor. 1-2
27	Lev. 25-26	1 Cor. 3-4
28	Lev. 27	1 Cor. 5-6

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Father Stood, Too!

“A lesson in parenting”

Ephesians 6:4

Dr. P.W. Philpot tells the story of a father he once knew. A fine Scottish Christian and successful businessman had a son: a splendid, well educated, and respected young fellow, who was arrested for embezzlement. At the trial, when he was found guilty, the youth appeared un concerned and nonchalant until the judge told him to stand for sentence, whereupon he looked over at the lawyer's table and saw that his father, too, was standing. The once erect head and straight shoulders of an honest man were bowed low with sorrow and shame as he stood to receive, as though it were himself, his son's condemnation. The son looked and wept bitterly.

-Moody Monthly

The Names Of Jesus

by Andy Mitchell

In the last article, I sought to wet your appetite to learn more about Jesus. In this article, I'll give just a brief description of some of His names.

Savior. Jesus, the “name which is above every name” (Phil. 2:9) means “Savior” and was given because He would “save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). There is salvation in “none other name.” (Acts 4:12). Jesus Himself said He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk. 19:10)

Christ. “Messiah” (Jn. 1:41) or “Christ” (Matt. 16:16) means “anointed one.” Jesus is Christ because He was chosen. Peter said that God has now made Jesus “both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)

Son of God. Jesus is “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Rom. 1:4) The confession the Eunuch made was, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37) The “rock” on which Jesus said He would build His church was Peter's saying, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Mt. 16:16)

Lamb of God. Under the Old Testament, lambs were offered as a sacrifice for sins, but Jesus is the ultimate and final sacrifice as a lamb “without spot.” (Heb. 9:14) When John the baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God.” (Jn. 1:36)

Immanuel. This is translated, “God with us.” (Mt. 1:23) This means that He had the fulness of deity in bodily form (Col. 2:9). The Word that was God became flesh and dwelt among us.” (Jn. 1:1, 14)

Lord. This means “master; to whom one belongs.” After Thomas' faith was reassured by touching the risen Christ's wounds, he answered, “My Lord and my God.” (Jn.. 20:28)

Mediator. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Tim. 2:5-6)

These names show the honor and glory that He deserves!

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Test Your Bible Knowledge

Do You Know the Book of Luke??? (*answers below*)

1. Who took Jesus' body to a cave for burial?
2. Where was Jesus the only recorded time he ever fell asleep?
3. Who was the prophetess present at the temple during Jesus' dedication? What was her name?
4. Who said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half my possessions to the poor?"
5. How many days after His birth was Jesus circumcised?

Name That Bible Location: (*answer below*)

6. Which city defeated the Israelites because of Achan's sin?
7. On which mountain did Elijah make a challenge to the prophets of Baal?

Challenge Question: (*answer in next issue*)

8. According to the New Testament, what is the only scriptural reason for divorce? When can people remarry?

Bible Fact:

Did you know that Christians are never instructed to observe the Sabbath day? It's true! The Sabbath was for the nation of Israel, and we have been delivered from the Mosaic law (Col. 2:14-16). Christians assemble on Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Answers:

1. Joseph of Arimathea (Lk. 23:50-51)
2. On a boat (Lk. 8:22-23)
3. Anna (Lk. 2:36)
4. Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:8)
5. Eight (Lk. 2:21)
6. Ai (Josh. 7:5)
7. Carmel (1 Kings 18:20)

Challenge Question ANSWER From January 2007:

According to Jesus in Mark 9:1, the kingdom would be established in the first century, during that generation of people. The kingdom is the church (Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13), and it has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years!

To Whom Shall We Go?

by Casey Head

In John 6, Jesus Christ had been teaching some difficult points. For an individual in the first century who was being exposed to the character of Jesus for the first time, it no doubt would have been hard for them to understand His sayings in this context. We find in John 6:66-69 two reactions to these teachings. Let us read the passage. It says, "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

It may be hard for us to understand how anyone could leave the Lord, especially when they were with Him on a daily basis, hearing His wisdom and seeing His miracles, but many of His own disciples did just that. When times were easy, they stuck with Him, of course, but as soon as things got hard, they "walked no more with Him." Many people are the same today. They don't serve the Lord because they know who He is and understand His awesome character...they serve Him because they think life is going to suddenly become easy, or because it's the "popular" thing to do. When a person decides to become a Christian, they must ask themselves the question, "why am I doing this?"

On the other hand, many of His disciples chose to remain faithful to Him. Peter's response in verses 68-69 is so powerful and convicting. "To whom shall we go?" he asked. He understood that eternal life could only be obtained in Christ. To leave the Lord was unthinkable, just as it should be for us. Did he fully grasp Jesus' teachings? Probably not. I'm sure he had the same difficulties that the others did, but he was determined to stay with Jesus because his faith was based upon confidence and hope. Which are you? Are you the kind of person who will forsake the Lord when times are difficult? Or will you remain faithful no matter what?

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LIGHTNING LESSON

Many people will agree that confession is a part of the plan of salvation, but they fail to understand what is actually being confessed. When Paul says in Romans 10:10 that "confession is made unto salvation," he did not mean that we are to confess our sins. Rather, we are confessing the Lord Jesus, as seen in verse nine. Furthermore, Philip required that the Ethiopian eunuch confess his faith in Jesus Christ prior to being baptized (Acts 8:37), and we are told in 1 John 4:15, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." It is vital that we understand the nature of the confession that is "unto salvation." Hopefully, these few points have accomplished that.

It Depends On Whose Hand It Is In

by Byron Smith

David said of God when He had delivered him from his enemies, "Your right hand has held me up." (Ps. 18:35) In another Psalm, David said, "My times are in Your hand" (Ps. 31:14-15), suggesting David's recognition of God's control in his life. The figure used of being in God's hand is worth application for us today. The ultimate success of our life, attaining heaven as our eternal home and evading hell, depends upon our residing in God's hand. **It depends on whose hand it is in!** Let us illustrate this concept:

A hammer in the hand of a skilled craftsman can produce a beautiful piece of furniture, whereas the same hammer in the hand of an incompetent man can be potentially destructive. **It depends on whose hand it is in!** A rod in the hand of one man might be used to protect against a mad dog or help him balance on a dangerous slope, whereas a rod in Moses' hand (backed by the power of God) parted the Red Sea and defeated the Amalekites. **It depends on whose hand it is in!** A few loaves and fishes in my hand might feed an average family an adequate meal, but in Jesus' hand the multitude of thousands had their bellies filled. **It depends on whose hand it is in!** Nails pierced through my hands would only produce pain, but nails driven through the hands of Jesus made salvation from sin a reality. (cf. Jn 1:29; 19:30) In no other hands could this be accomplished. (cf. Jn. 14:3; Ac. 4:12)

Let us make application for today. When we take life into our own hands it is often chaotic, disappointing and always spiritually perilous. But in the hands of God it is peaceful, truly satisfying and promising. Please read Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6-7; II Pet. 1:4. Is your life in the hands of God? If not, I urge you to "humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." (I Pet. 5:6) It is critical that we acknowledge our total dependance upon God for our spiritual well-being and care, and that we plant ourselves deeply in the palm of God's might hand.

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Salvation Essentials (No. 1)

by Sonny Smith

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1) But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6)

Christians, members of the church of Christ, have sometimes been branded as not putting enough emphasis on faith and accused of teaching salvation by our own works. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, if anything, we put more stress on faith than any other religious group, for while they believe in faith only, we believe in a living, active faith which includes doing all that God instructs us to do.

Faith is the very foundation of our trust in God, and coupled with obedience, results in our salvation. “Faith only” is a doctrine of the devil (James 2:19) and is taught by many leading denominations. They would argue that faith is all that is necessary to enter heaven, but then turn right around and say that one must repent to have eternal life, thereby contradicting themselves.

When someone tells you that members of the church of Christ teach salvation by works *minus* faith, you tell them “it aint so.” Is faith essential to salvation? Absolutely!

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