

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5



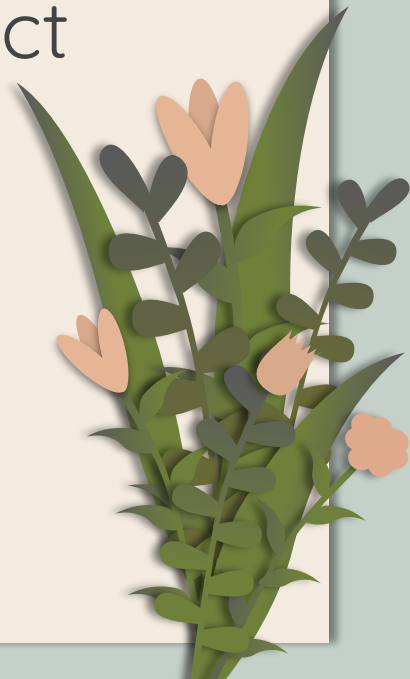
Mercy



Hebrew: checed

Greek: eleos

compassion shown to an offender, blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion


clemency; a disposition to moderate the severity of punishment due





¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. ¹⁷ They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. **But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.**

Nehemiah 9:16-17



³⁰ Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Nehemiah 9:30-31



And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:1-3

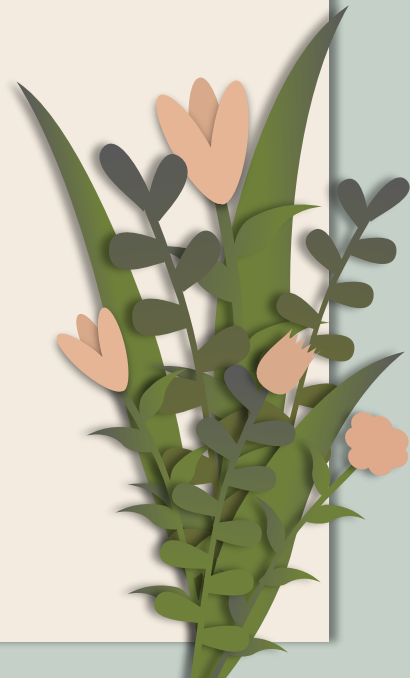


Righteousness by the Law

Peter: Acts 15:7-11

James: James 2:10

Paul: Romans 8:1-5, Galatians 2:16&21, Galatians 3:10-11



¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and he who has no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Isaiah 55:1-2



¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:1-4

Discussion Questions

1. What is the proof of God's rich mercy in your life, despite all your hardships and sins? (pp. 178-80)
2. Is it possible for you who are in Christ to become any more secure in the heart of Christ than you are right now? Will you be more secure in heaven than you are now? How does this connect to works-based righteousness? (pp. 194-95)

