"Brand New Mercies" Lamentations 3:22-24

The foundation of His mercy. Hebrews 4:15-16, Thessalonians 5:16-18

It might be to our advantage for us to compare <u>grace</u> and <u>mercy</u> since they are closely related terms. Both offer us help. <u>Grace</u> emphasizes assistance for the undeserving while <u>mercy</u> emphasizes relief for the unfortunate.

<u>Grace</u> describes God's attitude toward guilty lawbreakers and rebels, while <u>mercy</u> describes His attitude toward those who are suffering and distressed.

We receive His grace, so we can enjoy His mercy. That explains why grace precedes mercy in every one of the apostolic salutations where both words appear <u>1 Timothy 1:2</u>; <u>2 Timothy 1:2</u>; <u>Titus 1:4</u>; <u>2 John 3</u>.

It has been said that God's grace gives us the favor that we do not deserve, while His mercy holds back the judgment that we do deserve. <u>Genesis 2:17</u>, <u>Genesis 3:6-11</u>, <u>20-21</u>

These verses embody the central thesis of the book. When God dealt with His sinful people, He exhibited His "<u>compassions</u>". The word translated "mercies" conveys God's love for His covenant people <u>Samuel 20:14-17</u> <u>Jeremiah. 2:2</u>

The word "<u>faithfulness</u>" comes from a root meaning "be permanent, secure, and reliable". Thus, it is used of the faithfulness of God Himself <u>Psalms 36:5; 40:10;</u>

The believer likewise to be faithful in his life and in his service to God <u>2 Chronical 19:9; Psalm 119:30;</u> <u>Proverbs. 12:22</u>

The believer faithfulness in his service to God is a condition of the "soul" marked by such a stable character and an attitude of total trust that the believer's whole life is saturated with consistent, responsible service to God <u>1 Samuel 26:23</u>; <u>Psalm 37:3-6</u>

Lamentations 3:22 "[It is of] the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not."

"<u>Mercies</u>": This Hebrew word, refers to God's gracious love. It is a comprehensive term that surrounds His love, grace, mercy, goodness, forgiveness, truth, compassion and faithfulness.

Jeremiah realizes the only reason he and the people is not dead, is because of the mercies of God. God never stops loving. He just wants us to love Him in return.

These compassions of God are renewed day by day, to declare the great faithfulness of God in fulfilling his many promises made for mercy to his people.

<u>Mercy</u> is God's tender compassion toward us in our distress that causes Him to act on our behalf and relieve our suffering, at the time and in the manner which He knows will be best. <u>Ephesians 2:4-5</u>, <u>2 Corinthians 1:3</u>

Lamentations 3:24 "The LORD [is] my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

"Portion" pictures God as One who supplies security. Land and wealth can bring a measure of temporary economic stability, but having the Lord as one's portion provides lasting and genuine security.

One reason we can enjoy forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life is because our God is rich in mercy. Exodus 34:6, <u>Titus 3:5 2 Timothy 2:13</u>

Jeremiah said <u>His mercies are new every morning;</u>

Even better than waking up to the smell of fresh coffee brewing, bacon cooking, we wake up to a fresh supply of God's <u>mercy</u> when we open our eyes to greet each new day and He is there to meet us.

Unfortunately we do not always recognize God's mercies. Somehow it seems easier to focus on our misery and misfortune than on God's mercy. <u>Psalm 103:1-7</u> <u>Psalm 23:5-6</u>