

The Merciful God

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Sun. 4/26/2020

Text: Hebrews 4:16

Introduction Summary

In this lesson, we will walk through what the Holy Spirit has to say about God's mercy. Reading chapters three and four gives us the full context of God's mercy toward us.

- I. **Heb. 4:16:** Mercy means compassion (Gk. *Eleos*): Webster's defines it as someone with a tender heart, easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others.
- II. **Heb. 3:8-9** Speaks of the day after Israel was miraculously delivered from Egypt.
 - A. God gave them the land (Num. 13:1, 2).
 - B. This is the day of provocation (V27- 14:2). They were afraid and hardened their hearts.
- III. **Heb. 3:10-11:** God's way is that He speaks it and it happens, **IF** we receive it. God's rest is His provision. It's *Physical, Soulful, and Spiritual*. Fear stopped God's plan (Heb. 11:6).
- IV. **3:12-13:** God calls unbelief evil. Death means lack of God's provision including eternal separation from God (Rom. 6:23). Every day we should build up our brother's faith.
- V. **3:14-19:** Christ (Gk. *Christos*) anointing: Notice the "**IF**" is *our part*. We must not harden our heart. Some brought the evil report. Joshua and Caleb did not. Entering into rest is based upon our faith (our confidence and belief) in God.
- VI. **4:1-3:** The gospel is found in Gal. 3:8-9, 29. We get God's provision when we believe what He said: believe it, receive it, speak it, act on it. Mixed means intermingled. Verse 3 means it was done. God already decided they would have it, **IF** they received it.
- VII. **4:4-5:** This references the creation of the earth (Gen. 1:3 – 2:3). God rested on day seven. God created the earth and said it is good. Provision is that which is good for life and peace. God didn't bring this pandemic. Satan brings disease (Acts 10:38; Luke 13:16; John 10:10). God is Good and His mercy endures forever.
- VIII. **4:6-7:** This refers to the other groups of people who were not Jews. We must open our heart to God because He wants to help us (Psalm 95:7-8).

- IX. **4:8:** Jesus, in this verse, is Joshua. That “*other day*” is when He reaches all the way into today, 2020, and speaks to us. God loves us. Healing is ours.
- X. **4:9:** God’s people are those that receive Jesus as Lord, believe on *His Name* (Gk. *Onoma*) His character and authority, and believe He is the only way to salvation (Rom. 10:9, John 1:12, 14:6).
- XI. **4:10:** God’s work was done. We were regenerated (spiritual rebirth) by His mercy (Titus 3:5, Eph. 2:8, Jn. 3:16). We can’t earn salvation, but we can receive Jesus, the Gift.
- XII. **4:11:** *Labor* is the work of faith. It is the decision to receive, believe, speak and act on God’s Word. Receive His Word for healing, peace and salvation (2 Pet. 1:3). Israel got to the edge of the promised land and fell away because of circumstances.
- XIII. **4:12:** The *Word* (Gk *logos*) is the sum total or all the Word of God (Rom 1:16). It is quick (alive) and powerful (active, operative, and effective). The Word of God will help every part of us, wherever there is a problem.
- XIV. **4:13-14:** What do we have to do? Believe in Him and accept what He says. Jesus, the living Word, is our Great High Priest. This ministry is described in Heb. 7:27 and 8:3.
- XV. **4:15:** Jesus understands our inabilities because He faced them too. But, He never sinned.
- A. Jesus *offered* Himself and *sacrificed* His blood (Heb. 8:3; 10:18; Lev. 17:11).
 - B. Jesus was a sinless man, the only One qualified to pay the price for sin.
 - C. Sin is the reason for Covid19. Jesus came to protect us from it.
 - D. The just *start in faith* and *stay in faith* (Heb. 10:35-37).
- XVI. **4:16:** All that was said in chapters three and four, brings us to this point.
- A. Boldly (Gk. *Paracea*) means all outspokenness.
 - B. Grace (Gk. *Charis*) is God’s power. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace (Heb 10:29). The same power is spoken of in Acts 10:38.
 - C. Mercy is compassion.
 - D. It takes faith (trust and confidence) to come boldly to the throne of Grace.
 - E. There is mercy for all our failures.
 - F. Grace helps us when we need help.

Closing Summary

God’s mercy is so rich toward us that He has given us an open invitation to come to Him for help wherever we need it. He has done His part to give us life, health and peace on this earth. We must do our part to receive it, believe it, speak it and act on what He has said.