

*Thank God for
His Justice,
Mercy and
Grace!*

Titus 3:4-15

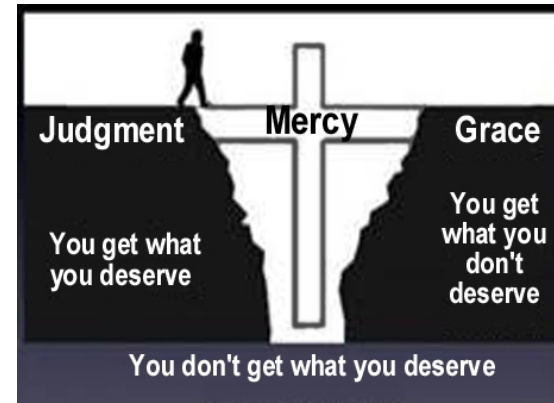
**JUSTICE—getting
what I deserve.**

We hear much talk today about social justice, but little is said about Divine justice. Where is the God of judgment (*Mal. 2:17*)? “The LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him” (*Hab. 2:20*). Divine justice demands that sin be punished. The righteous Judge cannot overlook wickedness and pretend it never happened. Every sinner must receive his just deserts. God’s penalty always fits the crime. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (*Heb. 10:31*). Crime does not pay, and the lawless will get exactly what they deserve.

MERCY—not getting what I deserve. Suppose a man were to rob a bank and kill three people in the process. He gets apprehended and appears before a human judge. The judge says, “Because I am loving and merciful, I am going to ignore this vicious crime, and I will give you your freedom and treat you as if this crime had never been committed.” What a dereliction of duty by a man responsible before God to “condemn the wicked” (*Deut. 25:1*)! God the righteous Judge devised a plan whereby He could remain just and also justify the ungodly (*Rom. 3:26; 4:5*). He could do this because the full judgment for our sins fell upon Christ our Substitute.

GRACE—getting what I do not deserve. Mercy is not receiving what I deserve (punishment, wrath, judgment). Grace is receiving that which I do not deserve at all. I am not worthy of the least of His favors. Yet, because of Christ, God is able to shower me with blessing upon blessing, even “all spiritual blessings” according to the riches of His grace (*Eph. 1:3,6*). Mercy frees me from the guillotine of God’s wrath; grace bestows upon me every kind gift from God, none of which I deserve.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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