

## Upcoming Events

### **Business Meeting**

Today at 3:30 p.m.

### **Meet Up Class**

Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.  
28561 Sunnyslope St.  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

### **December Birthdays**

17 Bill Brown    18 Alexis Brown  
27 Sue Tanner    31 Bob Pescador

### **December Anniversaries**

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff    18 Jim & Marie Burruss

# **Indio Informer**

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## **God's Love and Mercy**

### **God's Love, What is Our Response?**

By Jack Critchfield

Many passages of scripture speak of God's deep love for mankind. In what is perhaps the greatest verse, Jesus states, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*" (John 3:16). Also, we find Paul writing, "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). And John adds, "*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*" (1 John 4:10). All these passages point to the great love God has for His creation (mankind).

The act of love on God's part in sacrificing His Son, is the basis of the gospel. It is His plan for man's redemption from sin. "*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*" (1 Corinthians 5:1-4).

#### **Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
Jack Critchfield

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

It is by this gospel (and no other) message that calls us to salvation. *“...because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). The gospel message holds the key to our salvation. Paul wrote, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”* (Romans 1:16).

God gave His Son as a sacrifice for the guilt of our sins. His act of love calls for a loving response from each of us. The most effective way one can demonstrate their love for God, is by obeying the gospel. This is done by dying to our life of sin as we are buried with Christ in baptism and raised up from that watery grave reborn, forgiven, saved in Christ (Romans 6:3-5).

God has abundantly demonstrated His love for us through the gospel message. The question is, “How are we responding to His love?” Perhaps, at this point, it might be wise to read Paul’s description of the final day of judgment: *“...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

### **Asking for God’s Mercy**

Mike Johnson

Psalm 51:1-2 says, *“Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”*

David wrote this Psalm, it is thought, after his sin with Bathsheba. David was suffering greatly while in this unforgiven state and earnestly desired God’s forgiveness.

He started by asking God for mercy. The Bible teaches that God is a God of mercy. In Deuteronomy 4:31, Moses pointed out, *“(for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.”* Ephesians 2:4 says, *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”*

What is mercy? Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words points out that the Greek word used in Ephesians 2:4 means “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.” The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says, “From all the foregoing it will be seen that mercy in God is not merely His pardon of offenders, but His attitude to man, and to the world generally, from which His pardoning mercy proceeds.”

David committed some awful deeds. Not only did he commit adultery, but to cover up his sin with Bathsheba, he had her husband (Uriah the Hittite) killed. What David did would have been bad for anyone, but David was a divinely appointed King. God had blessed him so much. Indeed, he should have served as a better example for his people.

In spite of this, David was very humbly asking God to forgive him. David recognized that the mercy of God must be granted to him so that he could receive forgiveness. So, with humility, he asked God for mercy, knowing the compassion of God. In verse 2, he said, *“According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.”* Sins forgiven today are because of God’s loving-kindness and tender mercies (NASB “compassion”).

Are our sins forgiven? If so, it is because of God’s mercy. If we have not received forgiveness, God’s mercy will allow us to receive it. God is willing to forgive us today because He is a merciful God, but we must comply with His will and conditions.