

# 100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

## LESSON 48 – THE MERCY OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION

No one has a right to mercy. When we understand this fact and its implications, we gain a deeper appreciation of God's goodness to us.

The word "mercy" appears infrequently in the Old Testament. *Raham* and its cognates express the love of a superior for an inferior. This love is seen in the deep feelings that move the superior to help. *Hanan* and its cognates draw attention to the response of a person who is able to help another person who stands in need. Again there is the implicit assumption that the one who helps is moved by his feelings and that the one who is helped has no right to expect aid. Even though different Hebrew words may be found where English versions read "mercy," the underlying concept shines through. Mercy is condescending love, reaching out to meet a need without considering the merit of the person who receives the aid.

In both Testaments, mercy is compassion expressed to meet human need. The focus in both is on God's mercy to human beings. In the final analysis, God is the only one truly able to meet our needs. He is the one on whom we must depend. In mercy God has brought us to life in Jesus, we too can show mercy to those around us, providing in our own compassion a witness to the loving mercy of God.

### 1. GOD IS PLENTEOUS IN MERCY

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psa. 103:8

"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Psa. 145:8

### 2. GOD'S MERCY IS MANIFESTED TOWARD WHOM HE WILL. HE IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS MERCY.

"For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy..." Rom. 9:15, 18.

It should be remembered that while God is absolutely sovereign in the exercise of His mercy, while no one can dictate upon whom He shall have mercy, in point of fact He wills to have mercy on all upon whom He can have mercy.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Pet. 3:9.

### 3. THE MERCY OF GOD IS MANIFESTED TOWARD EVERY ONE WHO CONFESSES AND FORSAKES HIS SINS.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Prov. 28:13

### 4. THE MERCY OF GOD IS MANIFESTED TOWARD ALL THEM THAT CALL UPON HIM.

“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.” Psa. 86:5

### 5. THE MERCY OF GOD IS MANIFESTED TOWARD HIS AFFLICTED PEOPLE.

“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted.” Isa. 49:13

### 6. THE MERCY OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN HIS DELIVERING FROM SICKNESS, SORROW AND OPPRESSION.

“For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.” Phi. 2:27

### 7. THE MERCY OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN HIS ACTING AS A DEFENSE AND REFUGE IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE.

“But I will sing of Thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of Thy mercy in the morning: for Thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.” Psa. 59:16

Adapted from the teaching of R.A. Torrey and Richard Lawrence.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the meaning of the Hebrew word *Raham*.
2. Explain the meaning of the Hebrew word *Hanan*.
3. Explain the meaning of “Mercy.” Give an example.
4. Give two verses that state that God is plenteous in mercy.

5. God's mercy is manifested toward whom He will. Give scripture to support this statement.
6. Explain or give testimony to the truths found in Proverbs 28:13.
7. How did God have mercy on Epaphroditus and the apostle Paul? Phil.2:25-27.
8. Give scripture to prove that God has mercy on His people.