

## KNOWING A MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD

(Psalms 145:8 "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in love.")

**Mercy** is not getting what we deserve, which is damnation because we are sinners (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

**Grace** is unmerited (undeserved) favor, getting what we don't deserve (forgiveness and eternal life) (Ephesians 2:8-9).

### **Biblical Principles related to Mercy:**

- 1) **God is merciful and full of mercy!** (Exodus 34:6-7; Micah 7:18; Luke 1:78; Ephesians 2:4-5; Psalms 86:5, 103:8, 111:4, 145:8).
- 2) **We are encouraged to approach God ("throne of grace") with confidence so that we can receive mercy and grace in our time of need** (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- 3) **We should follow God's example and be merciful to others** (Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7, 9:13, 18:33; Luke 6:36, 10:37).

### **Biblical Principles related to Grace:**

- 1) **God is gracious and full of grace!** (Micah 7:18; Ephesians 2:4-5).
- 2) **We are saved by God's grace!** (Ephesians 2:5-9; Titus 2:11, 3:4-7; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-24).
- 3) **God/Jesus are the source of grace** (John 1:17; Ephesians 4:7). **Knowledge of God is a source of grace** (2 Peter 1:2)
- 4) **God's grace is sufficient for us when dealing with our shortcomings and challenges** (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- 5) **God gives us spiritual gifts to serve others as a means to show God's grace** (I Peter 4:10).
- 6) **God's grace is NOT a license to sin** (Titus 2:11-14; Jude 4)
- 7) **God's common grace is a gift to all mankind. All people (Christians and non-Christians alike) enjoy blessings of life, nature, food, etc.** (Matthew 5:45). **God's saving grace is received only by those put their faith in Jesus Christ** (Romans 3:22-24, 6:23; John 3:16-18). **God's saving grace is available to all people, and God's desire is for all people to accept His grace and be saved** (John 3:16-17; I Timothy 2:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:9).

### **Case Study of Mercy and Grace in Action:**

**Joseph and his brothers** (Genesis chapters 42-50)