

## Searching the Scriptures / 54 / Mercy Is An Unearned Gift From God / Part 4

As we continue our series of lessons on God’s mercy, let’s examine these points that relate to the fact that God’s mercy is an undeserved and unearned gift:

- 1. Work is Required in Every Human Enterprise**
- 2. God’s Mercy is an Infinitely Precious Gift**
- 3. The Magnanimity of God**

### **Work is Required in Every Human Enterprise**

God gave mankind the duty of working to live as a result of Adam’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, as we read in Gen 3:19, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*

All who are physically and mentally capable of doing so are responsible to God and to the society into which God has placed them to earn a living by their own labor, as 2 The 3:10 declares: *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”*

Thus, work is an important aspect in the life of every human being, according to Psa 104:23, *“Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.”* And in Psa 90:10 we read: *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

### **God’s Mercy is an Infinitely Precious Gift**

Because man is so conditioned to working to satisfy his physical and emotional needs, he naturally believes that he can also obtain spiritual benefits through his own efforts. Therefore, one common aspect of all the pagan religions and false gospels of the world is the notion that man must do something to gain favor with whomever or whatever they worship.

However, the Bible says there is no work that we can do to get ourselves saved. We cannot contribute in any way to obtain salvation – no church, no religious ritual, no person, and no human effort can save us. Only the work done by the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross and by the Holy Spirit in our hearts can save us. God considers all of “unclean” man’s attempts at becoming righteous to be like *“filthy rags”* in His sight, according to Isa 64:6, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

God’s salvation mercy is an infinitely precious gift because Christ had to *“give His life”*, or soul, as a *“ransom”* to pay for His people’s sins, as we read in Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* Also, Tit 3:4-5 declares: *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved*

*us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”*

It is only because Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man that salvation is possible for mankind, as explained in 2 Tim 1:9, *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”*

### **The Magnanimity of God**

Although the word “*magnanimous*”, which means “*generous in forgiving*”, is not used in the King James Version, we can still apply that word to describe God’s merciful, forgiving nature, according to Dan 9:9 *“To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.”* Speaking about those who know God through salvation, God declares in Jer 31:34, *“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”* Only God can “*forgive*” sins so they no longer count against a person.

However, since God is bound by His Law that requires a payment for sin, His “*forgiveness*” is not based on a whim but on the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross for His people, the eternal Israel of God, as we read in Acts 5:31, *“Him [Jesus] hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*

Thus, God Himself, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, had to “*magnanimously*” make the ultimate payment – the equivalent of eternal punishment in Hell – for the sins of His people to obtain eternal forgiveness. The proof that He successfully paid the required penalty was His physical resurrection from the dead, according to 1 Pet 1:3 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

Can you say with absolute certainty that you have received God’s magnanimous gift of mercy?