

Searching the Scriptures / 76 / Why Does One Cry Out To God For Mercy? / Part 1

Our Bible study concerns “*crying out for mercy*”. Today, we will be looking at three points:

- 1. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Are Sinners**
- 2. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Deserve Hell**
- 3. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Need A Savior**

1. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Are Sinners

Though multitudes of people seemingly pray and ask God for salvation (or mercy), we must understand that only those who are God’s elect will do so on God’s terms—that is, according to God’s Word, the Bible. Mat 9:13 declares, “*But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*”

Wonderfully, Christ came to this world seeking sinners. We are born sinful by birth, by nature, and by inheritance, as we learn from Rom 5:12, “*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*” Furthermore, 1 John 1:8 reminds us: “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*” Deception is indeed the core foundation for all sin, and its roots go down very deep into the darkest chambers of our hearts, as Jam 1:14–15 sharply warns, “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*”

Sin also enslaves, as Jesus explained to the religious leaders of His day in John 8:34: “*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*” Our spiritual bondage to sin and subsequent salvation by the work of Christ is illustrated by the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt for over 400 years until God delivered them out of Pharaoh’s hand.

Sin is also characterized by spiritual deadness, as we see from Eph 2:1–3, “*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...*” In Mat 23:27, we find these words: “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.*”

2. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Deserve Hell

We need to cry out for mercy because we deserve Hell. Our sin is like an insurmountable debt of infinite proportions that can never be paid, as Mat 18:34 explains, “*And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.*” Rom 6:23 also affirms, “*For the wages of sin is death...*” And the death that God has in mind is eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire. It is no wonder that the Bible uses such horrific language as “*... Vengeance is mine, I will repay...*” found in Rom 12:19; and Heb 10:31, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*”

What makes Hell even worse than we can possibly imagine is the sheer absence of mercy. Let me hasten to add that when God speaks of destruction, He is not alluding in any way to “annihilation”. To be “destroyed” by God is what Rev 14:10–11 depicts as the fate of all who remain in their sins—they will be eternally under the wrath of God: *“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...”*

3. We Need to Cry Out for Mercy Because We Need A Savior

In Psa 86:13 we find words of eternal comfort for those who, by God’s grace, have a Savior—the Lord Jesus Christ: *“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”* The Lord Jesus Christ is typified by a “lamb ...without blemish and without spot...” in 1 Pet 1:19, whose “precious blood”, or “life”, is the only covering, or payment, for sin. John 1:29 says, *“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

Quoting from the Old Testament and referring to the sacrificial work of the Lord Jesus, Rom 4:7–8 asserts, *“Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”* Acts 5:31 further acknowledges, *“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*