

## His Mercy to His Sons

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1987

### 1 John 3:1-2

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

Let me give you the title to this message; it is called: “HIS MERCY TO HIS SONS,” GOD’S MERCY TO HIS SONS. I’m reading a verse of Scripture taken from 1 John Chapter 3:2. John said, *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”*

In another passage over in the book of Romans Chapter 8: verses 16 and 17, Paul writes; *“The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God. If we are children of God then we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.”*

My message today will consist of five questions; I am going to ask you five simple questions; they will be to the point. I pray that you will listen as God is pleased to give you an interest and an understanding.

Here is the first question and listen carefully: What would it mean to you personally to know that every sin, every transgression against God’s holy character and law is forgiven? David said, *“In Thee and in Thee only have I sinned.”*

Sin is a transgression of God’s Law. Sin is coming short of the glory of God. What would it mean to you to know that every sin and every transgression against God’s holy character, His holy name and His holy law were totally and completely forgiven? What would that mean to you?

Every person listening to me is a sinner; that’s right, there is a sinner preaching to you today. The Bible says, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none that doeth good and sinneth not.”* This is what God says.

Isaiah said, *“We all do fade as the leaf. Even our righteousnesses are filthy rags in God’s sight.”* John said, *“If any man say that he has no sin; he deceives himself and the truth is not in him.”* It doesn’t matter if he is a preacher or whatever he is. If he says that he has no sin, *“there is no truth in him.”* There is no honesty. Again, he says; *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar,”* because God said, *“All have sinned and His Word is not in us.”*

My friends, going back to the beginning of this thing; we were *“born in sin and shapen in iniquity. We were conceived in sin and brought forth speaking lies and we go astray from the womb.”*

God has declared that your sins have separated you and your God. God said that, *“Your sins have separated you and your God.”* Christ our Lord said, *“If you die in your sins; you can’t come where I am.”* The apostle said, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”*

I said this last week, this sin business is not just outward acts. Most people have sin confined to outward acts. They think because they don’t drink, gamble, commit adultery, lie, cheat or steal outwardly that they are without sin.

Sin is an inward principle. Sin is a nature and it is an attitude. These outward acts are but fruits of the corrupt tree. You do what you do because of who you are. Adam was the only man who ever became a sinner by sinning. You sin because you are a sinner and it is in you. Sin comes out every once in a while doesn’t it? It comes out pretty regularly doesn’t it?

What would it mean to you to know that every sin of thought, word or deed, every sin of omission or commission, every sin of the past, present and future was blotted out and cast into the depths of the sea? What would it mean to you to know that your sins were put away to be remembered no more? Some of you might be saying, “Preacher, you are talking about heaven on earth.” Well, this is the mercy of God to His sons. This is the mercy of God to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is what He said, *“The blood of Jesus Christ (God’s Son) cleanseth us from all sin.”* I’m not talking about some sin, but all sin. He said in Isaiah 1:18, *“Come; let us reason together: Though your sins be as scarlet; I will make them white as snow: Though they be red like crimson; they shall be as wool.”* Hebrews 9:26 says, *“He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*

Listen to Hebrews 10:14, *“By one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified.”* He says in verse 17, *“Their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more.”* This is the mercy of God to His sons. That is what I am talking about, “His mercy to His sons.”

The Scripture says, *“He that believeth on Christ hath everlasting life. He hath already passed from death to life. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? Who is He that condemneth? Who can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus?”*

Don't deny your sins; confess your redeemer. Don't deny your need and your sickness; look to the remedy. It is foolishness to try to find acceptance with God by denying what you know of yourself and what God knows of you. Don't deny the disease; look to the remedy; look to Christ.

Here is the second question: What would it mean to you personally to know that the holy, eternal living, majestic, sovereign God who rules the earth is totally reconciled to you? I'm not talking about the peanut-god that I hear preached in this day that is frustrated, confused and defeated. I'm not talking about a god having equal power with the devil and they off-set one another and I make whatever plan I want to work. How would you like to know or what would it mean for you to know that the God who rules Heaven and Earth is totally reconciled to you and you have peace with God?

Listen to me; will you listen? I know that this is contrary to what most people are saying but the Scriptures declare in Psalm 7:11. *"God is angry with the wicked every day."* David said in Psalm 5:5, *"God hateth all workers of iniquity."* John 3:36 says, *"He that believeth not the Son, the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Do you want some demonstrations of God's wrath? How about Adam's fall? God cast him out of the garden. How about the flood that destroyed the world? How about the death of the firstborn in Egypt? Tell Pharaoh that God has no wrath. How about the drowning of Pharaoh's army?

Do you want a demonstration of God's wrath? How about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D when everything was destroyed, people were slain and the ground was plowed up by Titus?

A greater demonstration of God's wrath is on its way. This is what the Word says in The New Testament, the book of Revelation and the book of 2 Peter. Almighty God says, *"He will destroy heaven and earth and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat; the day of His vengeance cometh."*

How would you like to know that God is not angry with you? To know that He is at peace with you, that He has mercy upon you, has to be the greatest thing that a man can know. It has to be the greatest blessing that you can enjoy.

*"This is the peace that passeth understanding,"* the peace that is in Christ Jesus. Listen to this, *"Therefore; being justified by faith, we have peace with God."* You will hear people say that they will make their peace with God. You didn't make it; it is in Christ

Jesus. *“Therefore, being justified by faith; we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This peace is not found in the decisions that we have made and the religion that we profess. It is not even found in the good deeds that we do; this peace of God was made by the *“Prince of Peace,”* Christ Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 5, it says; *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”*

Now listen, If God wasn't angry why did Christ have to reconcile us? You don't reconcile friends. You don't reconcile people in love. You reconcile people who are at variance, who are divided. Christ reconciled us to God. God was angry.

This peace is in Christ. Turn to Colossians 1:20, *“And having made peace by the blood of His cross (by Christ), He reconciled all things to Himself.”* Christ said to His disciples, *“These things have I spoken unto you that in Me you might have peace with God. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. But, in Me you have peace. My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

You are not going to find peace in positive thinking. I'm talking about a lasting peace. You are not going to find peace by getting busy; you are going to find peace by resting in Christ and looking to Him.

This is the mercy and peace that God gives to His sons. That is what I'm talking about today, His mercy and peace to His sons. *“There is peace with God.”* We are *“Sons of God.”* God is not angry with His Son; He is angry with His enemies.

Here is the third question: What would it mean to you, (now listen carefully), to have a new nature, a nature that is inclined to holiness and to righteousness? What would it mean to you to have a nature and a heart which really loves God? Not just professing to love God, but one that really loves God and hates sin?

What would it be to have a nature and a heart that delights in the things of God, not because you have to, but because you really delight in them? You enjoy His presence; you enjoy His people and His promises and His Word.

Of course we have this old nature. No one with good sense will deny that. We call this the *“old man.”* I have been around as long as you have. It is a nature of flesh. Yes, you have a nature of flesh and you are flesh. *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh. In the*

*flesh no man can please God. In the flesh dwelleth no good thing. Flesh and blood shall not inherit the Kingdom of God."*

You are flesh. You have a nature of flesh. It loves darkness and it hates light. It is a nature that knows anger; yes it is. This flesh knows lust, knows hatred, knows envy and is well acquainted with it. There is jealousy and all these unfruitful works of darkness.

Your old, sinful, wicked flesh, the nature and old man, knows all about those things. There are still rumblings and there is still the presence of those things. You contend with them quite frequently, if you are honest.

But, in regeneration, in what the Bible calls "*The new birth,*" the sons of God by the Holy Spirit are "*made partakers of a new nature*" called the "*new man, created in Christ Jesus.*" There is a divine nature that really loves God. Just like that old nature loves darkness; this new nature loves life. Just like that old nature loves the world; this new nature loves God.

He truly loves God's people. He doesn't just profess to; he actually does. This new nature truly delights in the things of God. There are people who go to church, not because they have to, but because they want to. Like David said, "*I was glad when they said to me; Let's go to the house of the Lord.*"

Do you go to church on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night? Yes, I do; I go seven days a week. Why? I love it! I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God or a janitor in the house of God than to dwell as a king in the tents of the wicked.

He says in Colossians 3:10; "*We have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him who created Him.*" 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*If any man be in Christ, He is a new creation.*" In 1 John 5:4 the Scripture says; "*Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world; everyone that loveth is born of God.*"

Prayer is not a duty for that new nature; it is a delight. Do you know why prayer is such drudgery for most people? The old flesh does not love prayer; it just doesn't. You can't make the old flesh pray. You can try to reward or threaten the flesh, beat it or coerce it but you cannot make the flesh love it. To the new nature, prayer is not a duty.

Worship is not a duty; it is a joy. Love is not a duty; it is a fruit of grace. "*I delight to do Thy will O God.*" Our Lord said, "*Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy.*" Whoever heard of a yoke being easy? Have you ever seen them put a yoke upon

a team of oxen? Oxen don't like it do they? It is not their nature to like it. The yoke of Christ is easy and the burden of Christ is light.

His Commandments are not duties; they are delight. Paul said, *"I delight in the Law of God after the inward man, but I find another law warring."* That old nature; you will have a conflict with it until you pack your bags and leave here.

That new nature loves God and loves the people of God. That new nature loves the Word of God, the presence of God and the promises of God. That new nature does not find worship and praise just a responsibility or duty. He is not trying to work his way to heaven and he is not trying to get a reward in heaven by doing certain things described by a preacher down here. He delights to do them.

Do you know the reason why most religious people have to be required to tithe and to keep a Sabbath Day? Do you know why they are required to read their daily Bible readings and have all of these assignments? Do you know why they have to be forced to do all of those things? The reason is because it is just like rebellious children in the home.

I will tell you this; when you get a new nature, a nature conformed to the image of Christ, a nature created in Christ Jesus after the image of Him who created Him; you will love the Word of God. You will love the commandments of Christ. You will love the law of God and you will love the house of God. You will love it! What would that mean? These are mercies to God's people.

Listen to this; this is important to all of you; what would it mean to you to know that every trial, every trouble, every sorrow in this life, everything that happens to you, good and bad, successfully and with failure, is ordained by your Heavenly Father and would result in your good and His glory? We've had some severe trials haven't we? What would that mean to you?

*"In this world you have tribulation."* You know that and everybody that hasn't wept will weep. Everybody who hasn't suffered will. Everybody who hasn't known real sorrow will. *"It is given unto you not only to believe on Him but to suffer."* They that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer. *"Man that is born of woman is a few days and full of trouble. In this world ye shall have tribulation."* You see; those are all Scriptures that come from the Word of God.

The man who promises you health, wealth, prosperity and two cars in every garage doesn't know one thing about the grace of God or the dealings with His children.

Actually, the Lord said; *“If you be without chastisement, you are bastards and not sons.”* God chastens whom He loves. That is right!

Listen to me; one of Paul’s dearest friends was once so sick that he couldn’t come to him to visit him. He left one of them at a certain place sick. Why didn’t Paul heal him? God heals whom He will and when He will.

According to the Scriptures, there is no trouble and no trial that can befall a believer. There is no trouble, or trial or sorrow that is not purposed and ordained of God for your good and His glory. Romans 8:28 says this; *“And we know that all things (in heaven and in earth) work together for good, to them who love God and are the called according to His purpose.”*

I’m talking about the past, present and future. I’m talking about the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, all things. I’m talking about angels or men, even demons and devils, sickness and health, prosperity or poverty, life and death.

Our God is a God of purpose. *“He doeth all things well.”* He said, *“If you know how to give good things to your children, don’t you know that your Heavenly Father will give good things to His children? If your son asks you for bread, do you give him a stone? If he asks you for fish, do you give him a serpent;”* neither would God?

God’s good things come sometimes disguised. *“He moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.”* It is all for your good, your eternal good. Paul said, *“I’ve learned that in whatsoever state I am to be content.”* Again, he called himself, when he was sitting down there in prison; *“the prisoner of Jesus Christ.”*

Listen to this in 1 Corinthians Chapter 3:21; *“Let no man glory in men; all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, Cephas or the world, life or death or things present or things to come; all are yours.”* God created this world for His elect. That’s right!

Everything that has happened from the time that He laid the first foundation stone until the time that He will create a new heaven and a new earth; it is for His Son and the joint-heirs with His Son. All things are yours; and you are Christ’s and Christ’s is God’s.

If you are looking for a smooth, velvety road without any toil, trouble or trial, suffering or sorrow, you won’t find it in the faith of Christ Jesus. *“Beloved, count it not strange when fiery trials come upon you.”* God is going to try faith. Faith untried is not faith at all; it is presumption.

Here is the last question: What would it mean to you to know that old age, since some of us are getting older, even death would only serve your good and your gain? *“He that believeth on Christ shall never die.”* He may sleep, but he will never die. He will leave this tabernacle or tent and go and be with the Lord.

Even what we call death will only be the means that ushers you into a life of glory and peace forever in the presence of the Lord. That is what Paul said; *“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain?”* That is what he said, *“gain.”* *“I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”*

In Romans 8:18, he says; *“I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* King David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel, the son of Jesse, the king of Israel, the man after God’s own heart lay dying. David was a man who had great victories but he had great sorrows and suffering. David knew something about tears and something about wayward children. These were his last words, *“Although it be not so with my house; God hath made with me and everlasting Covenant, ordered in all things and sure; and this is all my salvation and all my desire, although he maketh it not to grow.”*