**Part 3**

**THE ABUNDANT MERCIES OF OUR GOD**

**INTRODUCTION**

Teachers should do a recap of all that they taught last week especially on Christ being our mercy seat as explained under the sub- heading Christ our propitiation this would serve as a useful foundation to this week’s teaching.

**WHAT MAKES THE MERCIES OF OUR GOD ABUNDANT?**

**1Peter 1:3**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to HIS ABUNDANT MERCY has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

**Ephesians 2:4**

**But God, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

Someone may ask why is the mercy of God great or Abundant? The answer is very simple… and we can easily spot it when we look at the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. In His sacrifice for our sins we see the fullness of the mercy of God.

**Hebrews 10: 10 – 12 NKJV**

**10] By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL.**

**11] And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

**12] But this Man, AFTER HE HAD OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOREVER, sat down at the right hand of God,**

* The mercy of our God is great and has been quantified as abundant because it transcends time, past present and future. That is to say it is limitless, boundless and never ending. So long as our High Priest is alive then we have mercy from God and Glory to God he is seated forever, alive and never to die again.
* The mercy of our God is abundant for the whole world, if it were to be a product there would no limited edition, it would be free and always available Just for about anybody. The measure of mercy God has dealt to us is one that takes care of our past, present sins.

**WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY**

Having believed in Jesus, we have received mercy. The bible describes the believer as one who has obtained mercy. We are the objects or vessels of his Mercy.

The Apostle Peter in describing the believer said…

**1Peter 2:9 -10**

**9] But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

**10] WHO ONCE WERE NOT A PEOPLE BUT ARE NOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WHO HAD NOT OBTAINED MERCY BUT NOW HAVE OBTAINED MERCY.**

**2 Corinthians 4:1**

**Therefore, since we have this ministry, AS WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY, we do not lose heart.**

Apostle Paul goes further in describing his salvation experience as receiving mercy.

**Timothy 1:12 -16**

**12] And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,**

**13] although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; BUT I OBTAINED MERCY because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**

**14] And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

**15] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.**

**16] However, FOR THIS REASON I OBTAINED MERCY, THAT IN ME FIRST JESUS CHRIST MIGHT SHOW ALL LONGSUFFERING, AS A PATTERN TO THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BELIEVE ON HIM FOR EVERLASTING LIFE.**

* That is to say, the man who is unsaved is yet to receive mercy from God and the one that is saved has received Mercy.

**Titus 3:5**

**5] not by works of righteousness which we have done, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

The moment we believed the gospel was the moment we received the mercy of God. Salvation is according to the Mercy of God we can’t separate them. This mercy is received once, just as a person is saved once. This mercy is sufficient for the believer, not even the vilest sin cannot be more than the mercy God has given to us in Christ.

**Isaiah 54:8 -10 NKJV**

**8] In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; BUT WITH EVERLASTING KINDNESS WILL I HAVE MERCY ON THEE, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.**

**9] For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wrath with thee, nor rebuke thee.**

**10] For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, SAITH THE LORD THAT HATH MERCY ON THEE**.

The above scripture is a prophecy of the new covenant we are now in. Which we entered once we believed the gospel. Hence it is our present-day reality. The Lord has had mercy on us. This mercy is according to his everlasting kindness that is to say it everlasting.

**HOW ABOUT HEBREWS 4:14-16**

Some persons have interpreted the above scripture as a call from God to believers and unbelievers alike, a call to receive mercy. If that is true it would contradict the scriptures above which emphatically state that the believer has received mercy.

When we read in context that is pre-text and post text we would see that the writer was actually inviting some people to salvation that is faith in Christ so that they can obtain the mercy which those in Christ have already obtained.

**N: B teachers should go through the message fellowship with the father track 1 from 43:00 to 51:17 and take note of pastor’s explanation of Hebrews 4:14-16**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY ON HEBREWS 4:14-16**

**Hebrews 2:1-4**

**1] Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.**

**2] For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,**

**3] how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,**

**4] God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?**

* Here the writer starts building a case for the salvation of men as he warns his audience not to neglect the so great a salvation but rather give earnest heed to the things they’ve heard. Vs 3 and 4, the things heard where the things pertaining salvation, which was spoken by our Lord Jesus and then confirmed to us by his Apostles and various signs and wonders

**Hebrews 3: 7-19**

* In **vs 7-15**, he quotes **Psalms 95:7-11**, he uses this as reference point to warn those in his audience who have not believed the words about salvation spoken by Jesus and his Apostles against unbelief, which he called rebellion and the deceitfulness of sin.
* **Psalms 95:7-11,** was a reference to the fathers in the wilderness who doubted and rebelled against God.
* In **vs 16-19,** we see how that these fathers could not enter the rest or the promise of God because of their disobedience which the write also called unbelief.

**Hebrews 4:1-11, 14-16**

* **Vs 1**, The writer speaks again of the rest of God and having salvation in mind, expresses his concern for some who seemed to have fall short of it. (who were yet to obtain it)
* **Vs 2,** Again he highlights unbelief or lack of faith in the gospel as the reason for his concern as this would prevent a person from entering the rest of God.
* **Vs 3,** The man who has believed the gospel has entered this rest
* **Vs 4-5,** he brings to the knowledge of his audience that this rest is of a deeper meaning than the 7th day in which God rested as it appears yet again in scriptures.
* **Vs 6-8,** he brings to the knowledge of his audience that this rest is deeper than the promise land which Joshua brought the Israelites into as David speaking by prophecy talks about another rest when he says “today if you hear his voice” this was long after the Israelites had entered the promise land.
* **Vs 9-10,** he reiterates the good news that there still remains a rest (salvation) of which anyone who enters into it has ceased from his works just like God.
* **Vs 11,** He then warns again that among his audience those who haven’t entered the rest should be diligent to enter that rest. This they would do by believing the message preach or by mixing it with faith as he said earlier **(vs.3).** The way they were to labor was by giving a very earnest heed to the words spoken by Christ which was confirmed by the Apostles. **(Hebrews 2:1-4)**
* **Vs 12-13,** they must be careful so that they don’t disobey the word of God, which is living and active and a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart. They should do this bearing in mind that we must all give account to God
* **Vs 14-15,** in this verse he concludes, by continuing his line of thoughts by presenting. Jesus as the great high priest. In all his qualifications and impeccable attributes who alone can mediate between us and God, thereby bringing rest, salvation and peace to all who believes in him
* **Vs 16,** he instructs them to believe in him, that is to come boldly before the throne of grace (Mercy Seat), receive mercy and find grace in time of need. **“Time of need”** according to Vincent word studies **literally means “seasonable help or help in good time; before it is too late; while there is still time to seek Gods rest”**. Hence, since High priesthood of Jesus is available for all who would believe they should come boldly before the throne of grace and receive mercy while there is still time, while it is still “today” and the promise entering his rest remains. **2Corinthians 6: 4** states emphatically that Now is the day of salvation.

Having gone through the context of the above text, **Hebrews 4:14-16** is not talking to believers but to unbelieving Jews (who have heard but where yet to believe the gospel). It was an admonition to them to mix the word they have heard with faith and receive mercy from the great High priest of our confession.

**NOW THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY**

This sub- heading deals with the aftermath. Now that we have received mercy. **(teachers should do more study on this part of use relevant scriptures to explain to the congregation)**

* **We now have Salvation realities** - We are now open to the salvation realities (in Christ realities) such as the indwelling of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit.
* **We have the gift of No Condemnation** – in the rule and reign of the mercy of God there is therefore now no condemnation as all our sins have been forgiven**. Romans 8:1.** Because God has had mercy on he would never be angry with us or punish us. **Isaiah 54:8-10.**
* **We can be merciful just like out heavenly father** – The believer is to gladly forgive others as he has been forgiven of God**. Ephesians 4:32**. We are to put on the bowels of Mercies **Colossians 3:12-13.** Doing this would be walking in the wisdom of God James 3:17-18.
* **We should preach to as many as possible** – even the vilest sinner is not beyond the mercy of God. Gods mercy is for him we should not write anyone off rather preach the gospel of Christ revealing the love of God with all passion and vigor. **1 Timothy 1:11-16.**

**CONCLUSION**

Like I said earlier, Salvation is as a result of the mercies of God, its inspiration is the love of God and it is by Grace not of works, it is received by faith in the message of Christ that is his death and resurrection. While the Mercy of man can be Separated from the justice of Man, the Justice of our God is to be merciful. The mercy of our God is abundant, great and extravagant. A consciousness of this mercy would not only benefit the believer but affect others around him.