

## The School of Biblical Law

### Introduction to Law and Grace

#### Lesson Twenty-Four: "Mercy and the New Covenant Believer"

Mercy, or that which love does in meeting a need, is intrinsically tied to the covenant that God offered to man. The substitutionary system, which is revealed in both the Old and New Covenants, was God's mercy. He provided the means to supply our release from the penalty, debt, and payment of our transgression. To live in covenant is to be a recipient of mercy. To live in covenant also places a requirement upon the covenant man to be a giver of mercy.

1. Mercy is the opposite of coveting.

Mercy is the love of giving for the needs of life.

Coveting is the lust to gain and to consume for one's own self.

2. Christ challenged the rich ruler in Luke 18: 18-30 concerning mercy.

The ruler boasted that he had kept the terms of the covenant, but Christ demonstrated that he had missed the point of the covenant.

Note the process of the Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they will have an entrance into covenant/kingdom.
- Blessed are those who mourn their condition of poverty and death, for God will bring the means of comfort.
- Blessed are those who realize the terms of self-covenant and self-governance have only produced poverty and death, for they shall be willing to take on the yoke of covenant terms and they will become co-heirs and stewards of God's portion. They will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to eat and drink of the new ways of God or to learn and apply the covenant terms, for they will be filled with the bounty of blessings and rewards promised to the covenantally faithful.
- Blessed are the merciful or those who take their provision and use it to provide for others, for they shall receive from God more unearned provision.

3. The ruler had wealth but Christ was asking him to use his wealth to mercy others.
4. Even an unregenerate man who applies the truth of God's principle to his earthly labors and relationships will reap a measure of prosperity in this life.

God warned the Israelites that the prosperity that resulted in law-keeping would test their hearts (Deut. 8:11-14).

Note the heart test:

- Gift of God's law leads to prosperity.
- The prosperity leads to the temptation to be arrogant.
- Arrogance believes that the wealth is self-generated (self-covenant), which is in opposition to humility and stewardship of God's covenant.
- Rebellion leads to judgment and removal of God's blessings.

There is power in God's law to produce external blessings that are not dependent upon the spiritual condition of the adherent. However, no unregenerate, ethically-rebellious man or nation can sustain forever its outward adherence to God's Word. Built into the Law is a self-destructive mechanism or protection against unauthorized use by rebels. There is the temptation to be as God. Rebels cannot live under total submission to total sovereignty. They will ultimately believe they have gotten their reward by their own hand. It takes a special grace to bring a man to the foot of the cross. A man who has received mercy will be a mercy-giver.