

March 16, 2023

## God's Mercy Endures

[Psalm 118:1-2](#)

*Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good: because His mercy endureth forever.  
Let Israel now say, that His mercy endureth forever.*

It is Epiphany, the day of the final Advent Devotional, as I write this devotional for Lent. I remember the Sunday School Christmas programs when I was a child. The Sunday School Superintendent always made certain that the program included some reference to Lent and Easter. She said that it was important to show the complete gospel story because some people only attended church at Christmas to see their grandchildren in the program.

It was different each year, but I specifically recall the year that an artist in the church did a chalk drawing of the crosses at Calvary during one of the songs in the program.

Today's scripture talks about God's mercy enduring forever. When I was in high school, it was tradition to sign the Annual Yearbook of classmates in May. The best way to sign the notes written for my closest friends was to write, "Your forever friend." My high school definition of 'forever friendship' could not even come close to matching God's definition of "forever."

We can be forever grateful that God in His mercy does not give us what we deserve. When we read in His word that His mercy endures forever, it is unfathomable.

I read that the word translated "mercy" in the original language means "loyal, steadfast, enduring love." I also read that the phrase, "for His mercy endureth forever" appears at least 35 times in the bible. This discovery raised the importance to me that God wants me to know and experience His mercy.

Just like the hymn title *Blessed Assurance*, I am assured of His mercy and so grateful for His mercy. This is especially true during Lent when we are reminded how Christ bore our sins at Calvary that we might be saved and have the promise of eternal life. He was sinless and took our place while we were yet sinners.

The songwriter, William R. Newall, shared it in this way:

Mercy there was great, and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, as instructed in Your word, I give thanks unto You for You are good. Thank you for sacrificing your Son so that the plan of our salvation might be completed in Your mercy. Amen.*

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