

Melting Mercy and Truth Together

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

O How I Love Jesus p. 02

What a Friend p. 03

I Need Thee Every Hour p. 04

Devotional Summary: "Melting Mercy and Truth Together"

Mercy and truth have met together.... Psalm 85:10

Oh, how priceless mercy is! One of the most prized words in any language is, "forgiven." This is especially real to us if we know we have done wrong to someone and we want them to have mercy on us and forgive us for hurting them. How uplifting it is when they have mercy on us and compassionately say, "I forgive you."

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (1956) defines "mercy" as: *That benevolence or kindness of heart or disposition which induces a person to overlook injuries or to treat an offender with greater forbearance and clemency than he deserves.* The dictionary goes on to say "mercy" is *a disposition to temper justice with mildness, and to inflict a lighter punishment for offenses than law or justice will warrant.* Therefore, "mercy" is, in short, showing someone *clemency; tenderness of heart; mildness; compassion; pardon; forgiveness.*

There may have been times in your past when you hurt someone deeply with unkind words or foolish jesting. You were not thinking when you spoke those stabbing words and, when you realized the hurt you unintentionally inflicted, you were truly sorry. You asked them to forgive you and there was not a lot more you could do. You could not take the words back. You could not turn the clock back. The damage was done and you were totally at their mercy as to whether they would forgive you or not. Do you remember that feeling? If they were kind enough, if they loved you enough, to accept your apology what a weight was lifted off your shoulders when you realized they had chosen to forgive you!

There is a popular phrase that applies when someone has mercy on us and forgives us for doing them wrong: they "let us off the hook." What a poignant word picture! We were doomed to end up in the frying pan like a little fish caught fast on a fishing line, but the fisherman had mercy, let us off the hook, and put us back in the water. Wow! How priceless is mercy to the fish on the hook?!

Oh, how valuable the truth is! Think about all the things we depend on as being the truth.

What if the gas gauge on our car were to be unpredictably right sometimes and wrong sometimes?

What if we paid a lot of money for a house just to find out that the people who sold it to us did not own it and, of course, are nowhere to be found now.

How would you feel if someone said, "I will hold the chair so you can sit down," and then pull the chair away when you turn your back and let you plop down in the floor?

What if your doctor told you that you had an incurable disease and then the next time you go to see him he tells you that he was just joking?

I think everyone would agree that the truth is very valuable.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (1956) defines "truth" as: *conformity to facts or reality, as of statements conforming to facts* (the world is not flat), *words conforming to thoughts* (what you say is an accurate reflection of what you are thinking), *motives conforming to professions* (saying you love someone and really meaning it) or *actions conforming to professions* (saying you are going to do something and then following up with actually doing it). "Truth" is said to be in *exact accordance with what is, has been, or shall be*.

Jesus Christ said that He was "**the way, the TRUTH, and the life**" (John 14:6)!" He also said that He would send the Holy Spirit to abide within us and He called the Holy Spirit the "Spirit of TRUTH."

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. John 15:26

Surely, we all have heard the old adage, "The truth hurts." None of us are perfect. We have not lived perfect lives and we know it. We also know that as long as we have been walking with the Lord, we still have things that crop up and show their ugly head in our attitude and sometimes they weasel their way into our words and our actions!

The Holy Spirit lives in our heart, where we think and where our motives and our words and our deeds originate. We have a heightened awareness of our shortcoming and failings because we live with the Spirit of Truth! He does not lie to us about our faults. He does not glaze over our foolishness and our sin. **He tells us the truth...He is the Spirit of Truth.**

But, let us look again at the verse from John 15: Jesus also called the Holy Spirit by the name of "Comforter." He comforts us in the grief of our sins and our convictions. Here we see the melting of mercy with truth together! The Holy Spirit did not come just to tell us about how bad we are and leave us to suffer in our hopelessness. Yes, He brings the conviction of the truth to our hearts when we sin, but He also pours upon us His mercy in the face of what we know are our failures. He has us caught fast on the fishing line with the TRUTH, but when we repent and appeal to His forgiveness He lets us off the hook with His MERCY. As John Newton put it in his classic hymn, **Amazing Grace**, "'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear and Grace my fears relieved!"

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

May God Almighty, our heavenly Father, grant that each of us grasp more firmly His Truth AND His Mercy in our life! May we ever remain humble to admit His truth in our life and to lean fully on His grace and His mercy and His forgiveness as we walk with Him, like a little child, holding His loving hand. Oh, AMAZING GRACE indeed!!! Amen.

Closing Hymn

Blessed Assurance p. 05

Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional

© Copyright, 2016, Christian Concourse Ministries, Inc., Norfolk, VA. All rights reserved.

Unaltered copies permitted for non-commercial use in long-term care ministry.

Web: www.christianconcourse.org

Email: chco@christianconcourse.org

Phone: 757-714-3133