

## The Gospel — A System of Mercy

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by Wayne Goff

***“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” (Ephesians 2:4–5)***

Mankind is here on the earth today because of God’s great mercy toward us. Everyone has sinned against God, Romans 3:23. *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all,”* Isaiah 53:6. Our perfect, righteous God laid our sins on the back of His only begotten Son because He is a God of great mercy as well! Can you fathom that?!

So God extends to us a Gospel (Good News) which says that if we will believe in Him, return back to God, and repent of our sins, then we can be saved by the Gospel — a system of mercy and forgiveness. As Titus 3:5 says *“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 *“washing of regeneration”* is the *“baptism of the new birth”*! It is not a work of merit, but a work of obedience to God. Jesus Christ commanded that all men everywhere repent (Acts 17:30-31) and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; see Matt. 28:18-19; Mk. 16:16).

God’s eternal scheme of redemption prophesied of this new covenant in Jeremiah 31. In Jeremiah 31:34 (quoted in Hebrews 8:12), we read: *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”* The Law of Moses, a **SYSTEM** of perfect obedience, could not do this! *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins”* Heb. 10:4. So the Old Testament system could not save imperfect man. God knew this! It was given to show to us that we **need** God’s mercy and kindness. Dear reader, are you now *spiritually dead* in trespasses and sins? Then why not come back to the God of mercy and find mercy, forgiveness, and hope again!

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