

**“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session #83, Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone  
Belongs Glory - “The Glory of God’s Mercy”, prepared by Pastor  
Paul Rendall for the Adult Sunday School Class on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Psalm 103: 1-10 – “A Psalm Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

What is God’s saving mercy? God’s saving mercy is His showing compassion to His elect people to give them all the blessings which they cannot merit and not to reward them according as their sins so richly deserve; and all of this because of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalms 85:9-13 – “Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation.” “I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.” “Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.” “Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.” “Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.” “Yes, the LORD will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.” “Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway.”

You can see that the great need of that day (the day when the Jews were returning from their Babylonian Captivity) was to be revived and for God to graciously grant them His salvation. The great need was for God to pardon all their sins, and grant to them all the blessings of His salvation to be seen in their hearts, their lives, and their land. This is what is needed in our day as well. What was God telling them that they must do on their parts for mercy to be shown to them and His glory to be seen? First, to hear what He, God the Lord would speak; for He would speak peace to His people and to His saints. But they should not turn back to folly. The folly being spoken of here was the folly of their thinking their own thoughts and going their own way in their actions; not taking heed to do all that God was commanding them to do in His word. And most importantly, their not seeing that He, the Lord was near to those who feared Him, and that He could most certainly cause glory to dwell in their land. His salvation which is found in believing in the promises of Christ is near to those who fear Him. Indeed Christ is the fulfillment of these verses that mercy and truth have met together and righteousness and peace have kissed each other; that truth would spring out of the earth and righteousness would look down from heaven. In these words we find the glory of God’s mercy; that He will give what is good and that in Christ all the blessings of God of God’s great salvation would be found for those trusting in Him.

**II. The Glory of God is seen in His faithfulness to show mercy to His people in providing for all of their real needs all the way through this life and into eternity.**

Psalm 23: 1-6 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.” “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.” “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”