

*With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. (Psalm 18:25-27)*

The Almighty Creator of the universe has revealed Himself to man in the Bible, in History, and in the person of His Son. Men therefore ought to look there to learn of Him. Although the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, people rarely read it seriously. Too often it is proven that men who should learn from history often ignore it. And few people indeed are well enough acquainted with Jesus Christ to know something of God from their knowledge of Him. Therefore most people's concept of God is created purely out of their imaginations and from their experiences with Him.

Mercy is clemency given to the undeserving and defenseless. The highest and purest display of mercy is found in the sovereign God of the Bible. "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy" (Romans 9:15). That is a mercy in which God is altogether free to give it or withhold it. He is never obliged to give it to anyone and is therefore able to give it to whomsoever He will. The cause of such mercy is God's will alone. Men cannot understand such mercy because they are basically unmerciful themselves. They show kindness and clemency to others only when they are obliged to either by public opinion or when they think it will profit them to do so. Because they are unmerciful, they stumble over the simple truth of the gospel that men receive the mercy of God solely because of God's uncaused kindness toward them. They think they have to deserve the mercy of God, go about doing things that they think earn God's favor and when they receive such from God, congratulate themselves for having attained. But to those whom God has given a merciful heart, mercy is a free gift of God. God has revealed Himself to them in the holy scriptures, in the person of Christ, and in their own experiences to be a God Who freely forgives, saves and upholds undeserving sinners. They have learned mercy by experience and therefore delight in showing mercy to others.

-C.M.