

## Thanksgiving to the Merciful God

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever...O, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever”.*  
(Psalm 136)

Have we ever contemplated that mercy exists in the universe solely because of a merciful God who is “the Father of all mercies” (II Cor. 1:3). Mercy does not exist of necessity. It is here because it has been begotten by a God who is love! For the same reason, mercy is not a temporal thing that passes with time or reversal of conditions. It is as eternal as the God from whom it springs! It endures in spite of all we and other creatures may do to prove ourselves unworthy of His kindness.

This mercy is all the more wondrous in view of His dominion. He is the God of gods and the Lord of lords. He is not motivated by any fear of being challenged, any debt or obligation. Being God and Lord of all, He is merciful simply out of His goodness! Nothing in His creation merits such grace.

God’s enduring mercies are yet marvelous in the light of His power and might. He alone does great wonders. There is no other real “wonder worker” in the universe. And if there were what could they do to compare with Him who made the heavens, laid out the earth above the waters, created the sun and moon and stars to rule the night and day?

And how shall we who have been brought out of bondage, the captivity of sin and death, properly thank Him who struck our “Egyptian” captors with death and ruin, brought us out with a mighty outstretched arm, dried up the impossible Red Sea before us, drowning our pursuers behind us, led us through the wilderness of our growth in the knowledge of Him, feeding us royally in the wasteland, giving us water out of the flinty rock?

How shall we properly glorify Him who tumbled powers and kingdoms of darkness before our march, who bound and cast out the enemies of our souls, plundered them and gave us the riches of heaven and the good things of this earth with which to serve and magnify Him?

This great and incomparably glorious God to whom we give thanks is the same One who condescended to come to us in our lowly state, when we were but as dust and ashes, lifted us out of the dunghill and made us sit with princes in heavenly places in Christ. He feeds every living creature, and makes us to sit down at the same table as the patriarchs and holy saints of all ages.

The unbelieving world is dumbfounded by all of this “neither were thankful” (Rom. 8:21). But we who have received His enduring mercies...we cannot find enough breath to properly praise and thank Him! -C. M.