

# The mercy of God

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## **Everyone has two appointments**

In the book of Proverbs, King Solomon wrote, 'The Lord has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom'. Pro 16:4. This proverb shows us that it was God's sovereign initiative to create and name every person. Isa 43:7. Our name was determined by God, and was written in the book of life before the creation of the heavens and the earth. Isa 43:1. It defines who God called us to be and the works that we are to do as one of His sons. Psa 139:13-16. There is no greater calling in life than to live as the son of God who we have been named to be.

Solomon's proverb also reveals that each person has two appointments, or destinies. 1Pe 2:7-10. One appointment is the blessing, life and fellowship that we have with God as we obediently live as the son who He has named us to be. Every person has been created for the purpose of becoming a son of God who will live eternally in fellowship with Him. Psa 100:3. Eph 2:10. The other appointment is the cursing, corruption and death that the wicked will experience if they choose to disobey the Father's word and reject His predestination for their lives. Instead of being a vessel of mercy, which the Father

had prepared beforehand for glory, they rather choose to be a vessel of wrath prepared for destruction. Rom 9:22-24. 2Ti 2:20-21.

Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were blessed with God's life as they enjoyed sweet fellowship with Him each day. God told Adam, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.' Gen 2:16-17. This word revealed to Adam the two appointments that are set before every person. After hearing this word, Adam now knew that if he chose to disobey God, he would be appointed to death. Jas 1:15.

## **Without God's mercy, we are appointed unto death**

When Adam chose to disobey God and to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin came into the world. Adam's choice resulted in all of mankind being 'sold into bondage to sin'. Rom 7:14. Every person was taken captive, and became enslaved to sin. Pro 5:22. Joh 8:34. Further to this, the apostle Paul explained that 'sin entered the world, and death through sin,

and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned'. Rom 5:12,19. Because everyone was now enslaved to sin, the appointment of blessing, life and fellowship with the Lord was out of reach. We were no longer able to be the son of God who we were named to be, and we were all appointed to death. Heb 9:27. Rom 6:23. This certainly left us in a truly wretched and hopeless condition!

Thankfully, the Lord our God is a merciful God. Deu 4:31. He does not want anyone to die in their sins, but rather to come to repentance. 2Pe 3:9. 1Th 5:9. Without God's mercy, we were lost, without hope and appointed to death. Eph 2:12. However, because of God's great mercy toward us, we have been given the opportunity to be set free from our slavery to sin and death, and to choose the appointment for which we were created. Rom 6:5-23. Praise the Lord for His great love and the richness of His mercy toward us! He has made a way for us, who were dead in trespasses and sins, to be made alive with Christ. Eph 2:1-6.

It is the Lord's sovereign initiative to give us the gift of His mercy. Exo 33:19. We do not deserve God's mercy, and there is nothing we can do to earn it. Eph 2:8-9. Paul highlighted this point, writing, 'For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.' Rom 9:15-16.

## **God's mercy is His word**

The Lord shows His mercy to us by speaking His word. God has sent His word into all the earth to provide a way of escape from our slavery to sin. Psa 147:15. God's word is a word of life that heals us from our sin-sickness and delivers us from our destruction and death. Psa 107:20. The prophet Isaiah encouraged us to be confident that God's word will accomplish and prosper in this work. Isa 55:11.

God's word enables us to choose the appointment of blessing, life and fellowship with God for which we were created.

God's word of mercy is proclaimed by His messengers. The word that they speak is the word of our name. Their word calls us to turn in repentance from our own self-defined projections, back to the precious and glorious name that we have been given by the Father. Heb 4:12. If we don't resist this word, we are blessed with illumination, which opens our eyes to see the wonder of who we have been named to be. God's word enables us to choose the appointment of blessing, life and fellowship with God for which we were created.

Each time you hear the word preached, you are hearing the word of your name. Jer 1:4-5. In fact, if you choose not to resist this word, God's messenger is writing the word of your name onto your heart! 2Co 3:3. When God speaks the word of your name, it is a great mercy and a precious gift, given specifically to you. You do not need to be concerned about what God's word might mean for someone else. The Lord is speaking the word of *your* name, personally, to *you*.

### **Choosing what God has chosen for us**

Every time we hear God's word, we are presented with a choice. Will we be the son who the Father has named us to be, and take up our cross each day? Luk 9:23-25. This means that we will count the cost of being constrained to the perfect name given to us by the Father. We will also count the cost of remaining joined to the fellowship of Christ's offering when life becomes messy, difficult and painful. 1Pe 4:12-13. Php 3:10. Luk 14:27-28.

If we resist the word of the Father, we will be fathered by the word of Satan. Joh 8:44. Satan tries to convince us that we will miss out on life if we choose to live as the son who God has named us to be. He deceives us into thinking that, instead, we can define a name for ourselves. Gen 3:4-5. This alternative word from Satan is a great and wicked lie! If we were the origin of our own identity, then we would have the freedom to choose our destiny. But of course, this is not the case. We did not create ourselves! As we noted at the beginning, God has made us for Himself. He is our Creator, and our destiny has been defined by Him.

Only the things which God has named and spoken into existence have any substance, or truth. Jesus said, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.' Joh 8:31-32,36. We can only live a life of substance, or truth, if we continue to obediently walk in the word of our name. This word has set us free from our bondage to sin, and now we are free indeed! However, our freedom is not so we can choose to do whatever we want to do or to be whoever we want to be. To live this way is to define a name for ourselves. This is a lie without any truth, or substance. Gal 4:9. Our freedom is to choose to live as the son of God who we have been named to be. You are only free if you are living as the full expression of who God has freed you to be! Gal 5:1.

We can see that there is actually only one simple choice to be made. Will you choose the name that God has already chosen for you? Realistically, there is no other option! Anything other than God's perfect name for us is a lie, which has no substance, or truth. Sin is deceitful. Rom 7:11. When it offers us an alternative to the will of God for our lives, it is seeking to destroy us. Gen 4:7. Satan knows that when a person chooses his alternative, they will suffer the outcome of their choice. In the same way that a lie has no reality or substance, choosing to live according to Satan's lie means that these ones will similarly, come to nothing. Ultimately, the outcome of choosing Satan's lie is death. The only way to attain the appointment of blessing, life and fellowship with God is to live as the son who we've been named to be.