

The Knowledge of the Holy

A. W. Tozer

18 -- The Mercy of God

How does the author define mercy?

“MERCY IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD, AN INFINITE AND INEXHAUSTIBLE ENERGY WITHIN THE DIVINE NATURE WHICH DISPOSES GOD TO BE ACTIVELY COMPASSIONATE.”
[3RD ¶, 1ST SENTENCE]

What notion should we “banish from our minds”?

THE IDEA THAT THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A GOD OF JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE WHILE THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS A GOD WHO IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS. [4TH ¶, 1ST SENTENCE]

Why is the answer to the above question true?

THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS ARE NOT PRINCIPALLY DIFFERENT / THE NT IS A FULLER DEVELOPMENT OF THE OT WITH THE SAME GOD IN BOTH. [4TH ¶, 2ND SENTENCE]

“_____ that has occurred or will occur in heaven or earth or hell can _____ the tender mercies of our God. _____ His mercy stands, a boundless, overwhelming immensity of divine pity and _____.”

NOTHING / CHANGE / FOREVER / COMPASSION. [5TH ¶, LAST 2 SENTENCES]

Compare God's judgment and His mercy. (hint: what do each confront?)

JUDGMENT CONFRONTS MORAL INEQUITY WHILE MERCY CONFRONTS HUMAN SUFFERING & GUILT. [6TH ¶, 1ST SENTENCE]

Why do believers often fail to capture the joy of God's mercy?

UNBELIEF OR IGNORANCE OR BOTH / “TO RECEIVE MERCY WE MUST FIRST KNOW THAT GOD IS MERCIFUL”. [8TH ¶]

What imagery did the author use to illustrate the tragedy of unbelief through all of life?

STARVING TO DEATH OUTSIDE THE BANQUET HALL. [9TH ¶, 2ND SENTENCE]

How does this chapter challenge what you think about God?

ANSWERS WILL VARY

You can download reading guides for The Knowledge of the Holy and other books at www.lifeisworship.com on the Resources page.

antediluvian -- the time period before the Flood

avid -- enthusiastic

boon -- blessing

dejection -- sadness

forlorn -- hopeless

infer -- assume

Kyrie eleison! Christe eleison -- Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy.

plaintive -- pathetic, mournful