

Ash Wednesday | Lamentations 3:22-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion," says my soul, therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; let him put his mouth in the dust--there may yet be hope; let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not cast off forever, but though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

Mercy in Affliction (vv.22-27)

- In affliction, the Lord remembers His steadfast love because He is faithful;
- We wait for the Lord quietly, eagerly, and expectantly not by abstaining or avoiding;

Mercy in Discipline (vv.28-30)

- Finding God's mercy in discipline humbles us and forces us to depend wholly on God;
- Humility allows us to embrace the purpose of discipline;

Mercy in Promise (vv.31-33)

- God's steadfast love does not annul affliction, but it does not mean God takes delight in the affliction of His children;

Mercy in Hope

- We can better understand the hope we have in God's mercy if we consider the cost of God's mercy for sinners through the death of Christ on the cross.
 - a. "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

Benediction | Romans 5:6-8

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