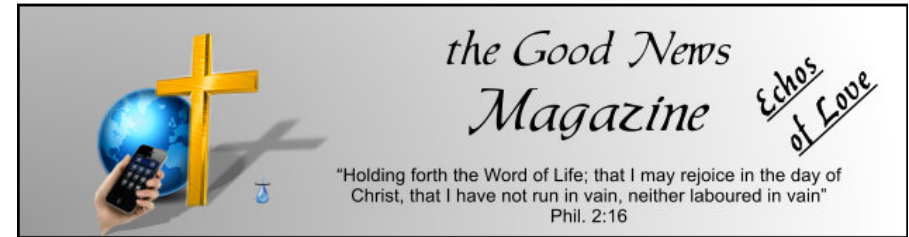


Lord just overcame me. The fact that the Lord's mercy endureth forever, means nothing can stop His mercy from flowing freely into our lives! It is at that time that I started reflecting how my life was before I came to know the Lord. I lived in sin. So deep in sin. Darkness surrounded my life. Life had no meaning. Life offered a short term pleasure. Yes, a time when I had gone away from God and fallen. But a time came, God in His great mercies, He saved me. Oh, how I wish I could put this right. God mercies go deeper than our sins. His mercies go beyond than we can expect. No matter how deep we have fallen, His grace is sufficient. It doesn't matter how far we have strayed, His mercies go just a little farther. Only GRACE AND MERCY could do this! From the opening verses above, we understand that God mercies endureth forever. And all of us somewhere in our lives have received mercy or are about to receive mercy. I myself need mercy from God. Our country needs God mercy as well. All of us need the mercy of God. None of us deserves to go to heaven. None of us deserves the blessing of God. But through His mercies, He will sustain us to the end. Have you ever asked yourself why we need His mercies? We need His mercies because sometimes we sin, mess up, speak

unkind words, and have unkind thoughts toward our brothers and sisters. Remember the things we've done we shouldn't have done. We can't forget the harsh words we've said when we should have been quiet. We are guilty of envy and covetousness and jealousy, and impatience. But our God is willing to forgive us. He is willing to show us mercy and grace. We deserved the heaviest punishment for our sins. But God took it all to His beloved and begotten son, Jesus. That is why we need to have the audacity but in humility go boldly to God and confess to Him all our sins and wrongs. His mercies are new every morning; He will definitely forgive us our sins and remember them no more. Through God grace the Gospel reached us, we who were gentiles, for Jesus had come unto His own, and His own received Him not. John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: We never deserved God salvation, it belonged to the Jews, and when they rejected the Lord, all these blessings of grace and mercy were given to us. We have received His divine grace, been justified and sanctified. It is not that we were upright, not our own work but upon the sovereign good will and pleasure of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am:



Greatness of God's Grace

by Justus Ondieki
part 1 is 63172

[Part 2 of 2 parts]

Is there one word that keeps jumping out at you through these verses? There should be. And that word is "propitiation". This is the definition that the KJV Bible Dictionary offers as the definition for propitiation; "PROPITIATION, n. 1. The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person; the act of making propitious. 2. In theology, the atonement or atoning sacrifice offered to God to assuage his wrath and render him propitious to sinners. Christ is the propitiation for the sins of men. Rom. 3, 1John 2. Once we understand propitiation, we see GRACE shining through! I have 3 sons; Matthew, Jonathan David, and Timothy. Through Home Schooling our boys, it gave us many teaching opportunities not just through book learning, but through life lessons as well. I'd like to share a story with you that I'm sure my boys wouldn't mind

me sharing with you. Our youngest son, at times, would have a habit of tattle telling in his older two brothers. We realized this was just a part of being the youngest and would eventually grow out of it. However, one day it gave us a great teaching opportunity as well as learning a Biblical truth through experience. Our youngest came in from outside and told us something the older two had done. My husband and I had already decided that this is what we would do next time this would occur. We told him to go get his brothers, that we wanted to talk to them. Because our bedroom was right off of the living room, I sat with our youngest in the living room, and my husband took the older two boys into the bedroom to carry out the discipline required for disobedience, which was to be spanked after having explained to them what they had done wrong, that they were being punished because they made the choice to disobey rather than obey, and then punishment was carried out in love, in this case (because of the type of disobedience) by spanking. As I sat with my youngest on the

sofa outside the bed room, he heard a "spank", and then the response his brother made from receiving the spank. Tears began to fall, and he knew his other brother was going to be next and asked to go to his room. I told him no, that he had come and told us what his brother's did, and that he would wait with me. He started to cry and said he didn't want to hear it... (What he knew was coming next). I told him I understood, but if he didn't do what they had done, he had nothing to worry about as long as it was the truth and he did not participate as well, but it's not always nice to tell on your brothers unless they're in danger, or harming someone else. And so, just before the punishment on his second brother was to begin, he jumped up sobbing and said, "Let me!" I asked what he meant by that...and his reply was, " don't spank him, spank me." I asked if he had done the wrong, and he said no... I then asked if he had lied about what his brother had done...and again, the answer was no. So I asked him why would he want to get spanked if he did nothing wrong? His reply was, " because I love him and I'll take it for him". That's when I smiled and said, "Honey, that is what you call, propitiation! Taking someone else's punishment when they did the wrong, and you did nothing wrong, but out of love for them,

are willing to take their punishment. What he didn't know, was on the other side of the door, Jerry was having a talk with the two other brothers who had disobeyed. He told them that what they did was wrong, and asked them if they felt they deserved to be punished, to which they both agreed. Jerry then explained to the boys, that even though they deserve to be punished, he was going to show them mercy. He explained that mercy is not getting what you deserve. (The boys were quite pleased with the way this was working out for them!) Jerry went on to explain how Jesus Christ shows us mercy each day...and then concluded that when mom comes into the bedroom, we were all going to get cleaned up and go out for ice cream! Jerry asked them if they knew what that was called, and then explained "this is called GRACE!". Mercy is not getting what we deserve, but grace is getting something special on top of that! As I came into the room with our youngest, he hugged his brothers, and we discussed what happened...no, the two older brothers were not really spanked, but from behind the door, to their little brother, it sounded like it...which gave me an excellent teaching tool...and yes, he was happy to hear they were not spanked! We were also able to use

this as an opportunity to explain his tattle telling had to stop...but then, we were able to explain to his brothers their younger brother's example of willingness to take the punishment and teach them a beautiful example of propitiation, while explaining how the older brothers learned mercy and grace all at one time...and then it was off for ice cream! You may not agree with the method which we chose to teach young children life lessons along with Biblical lessons at the same time, and I take no offense to that as we all must train up our children as the Lord leads us. But this was an opportunity that Jerry and I had discussed in advance and opted to wait for such an opportunity to put into play. And it was a lesson that was used many times over as we continued to train up our sons in the ways of the Lord. Propitiation is just one major manifestation of Christ's grace towards us...the greatest grace of all. That Jesus, not having committed the sin Himself, with tears of love for us, took our punishment in our place so we would not have to. And then, in mercy, offered us an opportunity for salvation, and to those who accept that opportunity, by grace we are saved! And that grace is eternity with the Lord and Savior who purchased and paid for our sin debt that we may spend eternity in splendor with Him in

Glory. Praise God for the greatness of His glorious GRACE! THE IMMEASURABLE GRACE
1 Timothy 1:2 *Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.* Recently our beloved country Kenya experienced and went through a turmoil of terror attacks from the „Al-Shabaab, a militias group which kill innocent people. As a country we mourned, prayed for the affected families but deep inside me I was groaning with pain. I wondered why God allowed this but then upon looking into His Word I got encouraged. Psalm 136:1 says, O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. And Psalm 23:6 says, Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. The thought of the mercy of the

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The above is an echo of love from the June 2015 edition of the Kenya-USA magazine: The Good News Magazine. The full edition, including a word search puzzle and more God-honoring articles are at:

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