

Recently, while down at the YMCA I saw the following posted on the bulletin board:

GRACE--getting what we don't deserve.

MERCY--not getting what we do deserve.

While maybe not the denotations of these words, the connotation (practical meaning) is true. We need both grace and mercy—no doubt about it.

MERCY probably comes first in that what we deserve is death because of sin. We deserve to be eternally banished from the presence of God. Our sins have separated us from God (Isa. 59: 1-2) and the "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). We have received mercy in that God has chosen not to give us what we deserve.

GRACE is then extended to give us the way back to God. Grace provides the perfect gift of Jesus Christ to make the forgiveness of my sins possible. It is by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9) that I am saved. In receiving God's saving grace we get what we don't deserve.

How unbelievably unfortunate it is that mercy and grace are available and so few seem to want them. Both are free and only need be accessed by our obedience to Christ. Grace is "the best deal in town" but too few want to take advantage of it.

I expected punishment and received mercy; I deserved nothing and received grace. How about you

-gls