

Day 25

God Have Mercy on Your Soul

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

You see it in old movies. The judge condemns the prisoner to death and concludes, “And may God have mercy on your soul.”

I never really thought about it much. It was just part of the movie. But one day I will stand before the Judge of all time. Based on my sinful deeds, I deserve to be like the prisoner condemned to death.

You see, I’ve repeatedly messed up big time. I have sinned grievously. And if I’m brutally honest with God, others, and myself, I must admit that I continue to sin. Daily.

Sure, I can defend myself by thinking that mostly they’re “small” sins. But I know what I am capable of. I daily face temptation and often fail. But whether or not I am truthful about my sin, God knows my every sinful thought, word, and deed. From a human court’s perspective, I have great reason to worry.

But I need not be anxious because of what Paul declares: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! Why? Because God in his infinite love sent his Son to die for us. Sentence was passed on our sin and that sentence was death—eternal death. But Jesus stepped up and said, “Leave him—take me. I will die for his sin.”

God has had mercy on my soul and yours. We no longer stand condemned. Our sentence is commuted to life—life eternal—in him who loves us more than we imagine or deserve.

Dear Father, I have sinned and I deserve your wrath and punishment. Help me to remember your Son’s sacrifice and that for his sake I am not condemned but forgiven. In his name I pray. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. What motivated God to show mercy on your soul?
2. What keeps God continuing to show mercy on your soul? What is your responsibility?
3. Using “Guidelines For Confession”, take the third guideline – *Identify Your Sins* – and write out your sins of thoughts, words, and deeds that are heavy on your heart.
4. Write a prayer thanking God for the love and mercy He has shown you beyond what you ever deserve.