

SOHL  
WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

## His grace and mercy.

May 21, 2018

**JEREMIAH 31:2-3 NKJV** – (2) Thus says the LORD: “The people who survived the sword. Found grace in the wilderness—Israel, when I went to give him rest.” (3) The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.

I observed a hurricane go from Key West Florida as a category 5 Hurricane and then turned into a tropical storm by time it reached where I live in Tallahassee, Florida. All this in two days! My mom said it reminded her of Passover in Exodus, where God told the Israelites to sacrifice a spotless lamb and mark their doorposts and lintels with its blood (**Exodus 12:21–22**). But then I thought to myself, many made it through the storm and they don't acknowledge God as Savior and many might have died from the storm and they did acknowledge Him as their Savior. Personally, I simply see His “**Grace and Mercy.**”

When you think of God's mercy you automatically think about grace. Many people get the two mixed up. Although they are close in meaning they are not the same thing. Grace is God's unmerited favor and it goes beyond mercy. Mercy is God not giving us the punishment that we deserve for our sins.

The legal system shows that you have to punish criminals. This responsibility to punish evildoers becomes even greater with a Holy God. Out of God's great mercy, love, and grace He came down in the form of man and lived the perfect life that we couldn't live. God desires perfection and He became perfection for us. Jesus is God in the flesh and He took upon the wrath of God that we deserve. I deserve to be punished, but yet God crushed His beloved and perfect Son for me. That is mercy.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

TITUS 3:4-7

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

If there is no rain falling from heaven, you will not grow.