

**Psa 136:1** O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

A reason for our Thanksgiving Day - God's Mercy.

**God's mercy is the door from which all other blessings come.** God is the only self-existent one. He is independent from all creation. He transcends the laws of physics, time and space. He is independently good and his mercy endures for ever. But, what good is goodness if there is no one to be good to? What good is love if there is no one to love? Why have a kind heart if there is no one to show kindness too? The first thanksgiving was because of God's mercy. The pilgrims survived that first winter because of God's mercy.

### **THANKSGIVING UNTO THE LORD**

(The Two Faces of God)

**Job\_7:17** What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

**Psa\_144:3** LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Due to our fallen nature it's difficult to understand why God would be good to us. We may have a good side, but it's only because it comes from God. But, what about our bad side which shows itself too often? It may surprise you that God has a bad side too. Not that he is wicked, but there is a side of him (An Attribute) that he doesn't want you to see.

- You can't see my face "for there shall no man see me, and live."
- Moses spoke to God face to face and lived. There is a face that brings life and there is a face that brings death.

**THE TWO FACES OF GOD** After Moses said to God, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory."

**Exo 33:18** And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. (Not show me thy wrath)

**Exo 33:19** And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

**Exo 33:20** And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

**Exo 33:21** And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

**Exo 33:22** And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

**Exo 33:23** And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

**Rev\_6:16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

## **CONTRAST THE TWO FACES OF GOD (Exodus 32 and 33)**

- **Circumstances Surrounding the Giving of the Law would bring death to thousands.**
  - **Worship of The Golden Calf**
  - **Moses makes intercession** after God threatens to consume the stiff-necked
    - He reasoned the Egyptians would use God's judgment against him.
    - He reminded God, of his promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
    - He asked God to turn from his fierce wrath, and repent of the evil he thought against the people". HE ASKED FOR MERCY NOT JUSTICE
    - **Illustration:** Mother of condemned son to Napoleon (Justice required death but she pleaded for mercy. He did not deserve mercy - If mercy was deserved it would not be mercy.
  - **When Moses sees the people in their sin** he is so angry he breaks the commandments, burnt the calf with fire and ground it into powder, cast it upon the water and made the people drink of their own sin. Then there is a reckoning. He demanded the people to choose side. Then they that were with the Lord turned their swords upon their brothers, sisters and neighbors who refused to stand with the Lord. And, about 3,000 died that day.
- **Circumstances Surrounding the Giving of Grace would bring life.**

**2Co\_3:6** Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

**Joh\_1:17** For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

- On the day of Pentecost those who were condemned for killing Jesus Christ were given the gospel.
- Those who believed repented and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and were promised the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- And about 3,000 were added to the church.

**CONCLUSION:** I have seen the glory of God. I have seen him face to face and lived.

**Psa 136:1** O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.