**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

Rommel J. Casis

**Day 84**

**2 John 1:3**

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. How would I explain grace? What do I have because of God's grace?

2. How would I define mercy? What do I have because of God's mercy?

3. How would I describe peace? What is the effect of God's peace on me?

4. How will my life be like without grace, mercy and peace? When was the last time I was grateful for these blessings?

5. What does truth and love have to do with these blessings?

***Insight:***

Grace, mercy and peace is what we receive when we become Christians. Even if these three are all we get and nothing more, all the sacrifices of discipleship are worth it. Would you agree?

Grace is unmerited favor from God. It is God giving us credit for something we have not done. Grace is a gift we do not deserve. Because of grace we all have received different gifts (Romans 12:6). We have redemption and forgiveness of sins in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Ephesians 1:7). Perhaps most important of all, we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5). Because of grace we are no longer motivated by guilt but by gratitude.

Mercy is God's pity on us. It is him holding back the punishment we deserve for our sins. It is God being patient with us despite all the bad things we have done. This is God being compassionate with us and not wanting us to suffer even though we deserve it. Mercy is God not treating us as our sins deserve. Mercy relieves us of the misery of impending punishment. We are all saved according to God's mercy (Titus 3:5). According to God's great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope (1 Peter 1:3).

Peace is tranquility because we are no longer enemies of God. Peace is the result of God's grace and mercy in our lives. Peace is the state of the person who has been forgiven of his sins. When we have peace, our hearts are no longer troubled or fearful (John 14:27). We have peace with God (Romans 5:1) because we are no longer fighting him. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). We have the peace of God which transcends all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Grace, mercy and peace come from God. We cannot have any of these apart from God. In fact, we will have the opposite of these blessings without God. A life without God is a life without grace, mercy and peace. This would be a horrible way to live. We used to have that life before we became Christians. Therefore, we should be eternally grateful to God that we no longer have that kind of life. We need to remind ourselves of this because we are sometimes tempted with the thought that life outside of the church seems more fun compared to life inside the church. We see the social media posts of those who are not disciples of Jesus and we envy their lifestyles. We crave the "blessings" they seem to have, not realizing that our blessings in Christ are infinitely better. If we focus on the grace, mercy and peace we have from God, we will have more than enough reasons to be grateful for the rest of our lives.

Grace, mercy and peace are with us "in truth and in love." If truth and love characterize the way we live our lives, we will have these blessing from God. Certainly we can never earn these blessings. But in order to be in a state where we can have access to these blessings, we need to live in truth and in love. Grace, mercy and peace are blessings promised to us by God for as long as we live in truth and in love. These blessings are founded on Biblical truth and God's standard of love. As we practice biblical truths in our lives or walk in truth, we are able to experience God's grace, mercy and peace even more. These blessings cannot be enjoyed apart from truth. The same can be said of love. We need to walk in love in order to enjoy grace, mercy and peace. What role does truth play in our lives? Do we insist on it in every interaction we have? What place does love have in our lives? Are we motivated by love? When we let go of truth or neglect love, we also lose grace, mercy and peace.

Truth and love need to go together and must never be separated. Truth without love is cold, uninviting and in the end unacceptable. Love without truth is unstable, erratic and unreliable. Truth is what gives love substance and stability. Love is what make truth beautiful and desirable. In our relationship with God and in our relationships with people there must always be truth and love.

As we continue to enjoy the blessings of grace, mercy and peace from God, let us cultivate truth and love in our lives.