

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([Psalm 103:17-18](#))

*"But the **mercy** of the Lord is from **everlasting to everlasting** on those who fear Him, And His **righteousness** to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them."*

From Everlasting to Everlasting



We serve a merciful God. In [Psalms 103, verses 17 and 18](#), we are told that God is merciful. This mercy is said to be from everlasting to everlasting. And furthermore, the righteousness of God is given not only to God's children, but to their children as well. The condition given for this promise of God's mercy and the gift of God's righteousness is said to be for those who fear God, evidenced by the keeping of God's commandments.

Where is God's mercy in tragedy? In [Matthew 5:45](#), we are told that God makes the sun to shine (blessings) and the rain to fall (hard times) on the just and the unjust (the righteous and unrighteous). Now if Psalms 103 promises us that the righteousness of God is given only to those who keep God's commandments, and His mercy to them and their children, how can this be reconciled with [Matthew 5:45](#) which tells us that good and bad things will happen to everyone? One verse *appears* to be saying that God will protect us from bad things, while another verse *appears* to be saying that bad things happen to everyone. Such questions often come up when we look at horrible acts of violence such as the school shooting in Uvalde Texas, which took the lives of 19 children and 2 teachers. We ask, what does it mean for God to have mercy on us and our children, when such evil acts of violence are not stopped by our heavenly father in heaven?

Mercy applied and righteousness restored. The mercy of God is God's withholding from us the punishment which we deserve for our sins. The righteousness of God is our right standing as pure and sinless before a Holy God. God's mercy is not a pledge to protect us from burdens and danger; it is a promise that if we cast those burdens unto Him, He will comfort us with His presence and lighten our load ([Matt 11:28](#)). Similarly, God's righteousness is not a guarantee that evil will never be permitted to harm us, but a blessed assurance that evil may take our bodies but our soul and spirit are secured in Christ forever ([Luke 12:5](#)).

The Christian life extends beyond this world, we have eternal life - life everlasting. God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting - it started before this world with the lamb (Jesus) slain before the foundation of the earth ([Rev 13:8](#)), and God's mercy will carry on beyond this world into eternity in Heaven, where our sins will be remembered no more ([Heb 8:12](#)). Our awareness of these truths does not always take away the pain and the hurt, as mourning in such times is healthy and appropriate; instead, our awareness of these truths gives us comfort and hope in the midst of the tragedy.

-Your brother in Christ, [WNL](#)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God doesn't promise to protect us and our children from being **victims of evil, but He promises to carry us through, and give us the ultimate **victory** over evil.**

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, please give us peace and please give us comfort. We mourn with all those who are suffering and mourning, especially those who are the victims of violent crimes like the one in Uvalde Texas. Thank you for your mercy which comes alongside us in tragedy and your righteousness which promises that we will emerge righteous, in right standing, and blameless before you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



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