



MARCH 8, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Wrath → Mercy

Scripture: Romans 1:18; Psalm 103:8–13; Micah 7:18–19; Proverbs 28:13

Spotlight: God's mercy triumphs over wrath for all who repent.

Summary: God's holiness means that sin cannot be ignored. Scripture teaches that God's righteous wrath is revealed against sin because sin destroys lives and separates people from Him (Romans 1:18). Yet, the heart of God is also rich in mercy. God is compassionate, slow to anger, and eager to forgive those who turn to Him (Psalm 103:8–13). Through repentance and confession, the sinner discovers that God delights to show mercy rather than judgment (Micah 7:18–19; Proverbs 28:13). The cross of Jesus Christ is where this transformation takes place—where the wrath we deserved was satisfied and mercy was made available. Jesus Changes Everything: what was once wrath becomes mercy for all who turn to Him in faith.

I. Wrath Understood - God's Justice Confronts Sin.

Romans 1:18

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

II. Wrath Withheld - God's Patience Delays Judgement.

Micah 7:18-19

18 Where is another God like you,
who pardons the guilt of the remnant,
overlooking the sins of his special people?

You will not stay angry with your people forever,
because you delight in showing unfailing love.
19 Once again you will have compassion on us.
You will trample our sins under your feet
and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

Exodus 34:6

The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

III. Mercy Offered - God Extends Grace Through His Character.

Psalm 103:8-12

8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
9 He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.
10 He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
12 He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

IV. Mercy Received - Repentance Opens the Door

Proverbs 28:13

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

Next Steps: "Don't presume on mercy—receive it today through Christ."

Life Application:

1. Understanding God's Wrath: Romans 1:18 teaches that God's wrath is revealed against sin. In a culture that often rejects the idea of divine judgment, why is it important to understand God's wrath before we can fully appreciate His mercy? How does minimizing sin distort our understanding of the gospel?

2. The Character of God: Psalm 103:8–13 describes God as compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. How do these verses help balance the truth of God's justice with His mercy? In what ways might people misunderstand God if they focus only on wrath or only on mercy?

3. The Role of Repentance: Proverbs 28:13 teaches that those who conceal sin do not prosper, but those who confess and renounce it find mercy. Why do people tend to hide or justify their sin rather than confess it? What practical steps help someone move from concealment to genuine repentance?

4. Mercy and the Cross: The cross is where God's wrath against sin and His mercy toward sinners meet. How does understanding Christ bearing the punishment for sin deepen your gratitude for salvation? How should this truth shape the way believers live and treat others?

5. Presuming on Mercy: Some people assume that because God is merciful, repentance is unnecessary. What dangers come from presuming upon God's mercy (see Romans 2:4–5)? How can believers guard their hearts against taking grace for granted?

6. Extending Mercy to Others: If God has shown us mercy instead of the judgment we deserved, how should that influence the way we respond to people who have wronged us? What does it practically look like to reflect God's mercy in relationships, conflicts, or forgiveness?

7. Personal Reflection: Think about a time when you experienced God's mercy in a clear way. How did that moment change your relationship with Him? What areas of your life right now need to move from concealment to confession so you can experience His mercy more fully?

NOTE: The *Summary* and *Life Application* were created using ChatGPT Professional and edited for First Baptist Church Gulfport by Dr. James M. Stewart March 5, 2026.