

warming truth for whoever reaches out to Jesus in faith and repentance. Even as you reach out and see endless reasons why there should be no remedy, no mercy, no salvation for you, let this Word from God's holy book, the God of all comfort, the God full of compassion, meet you where you are at. *His compassions fail not!* This is a holy happy gospel truth inviting sinners to come to Jesus, and inviting backsliders to return to Jesus and urging God's people to stay with Jesus and abide with Him, for *His compassions fail not!* Jesus being also very man, like us in all things, sin excepted, as well as being at the same time very God, just underlines so much too, His compassions are so real and they fail not. Jesus knows about all the nitty gritty struggles of family life and work life, and can be touched with the feelings of all our infirmities, because He has been here, beloved! Jesus has lived on this earth, and He knows as a Man as well as God all we meet with every day...and this is His Word, *His compassions fail not.*

In this message, my single aim is just to stress this gospel point, and may the Lord apply it now further as needs to be applied - this truth, that *His compassions fail not!* It is a gospel that becomes the solid basis of all the hope and trust of whoever comes to the Saviour, and it is a truth that forever condemns all who will not come to Him. There can be no good reason for any to delay in coming to Christ today in faith and repentance, just as you are, seeing His compassions fail not. For sure, those who remain unsaved in the day of days will discover it was not because God's compassions failed, but because you wickedly refused to repent and believe, caught up with so much of self and Satan, and this world instead. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not, but if you will reject His compassions as revealed in the Person and work of Christ, how then shall you escape the just and eternal wrath of God in the day of Judgment? Oh sinner, hear the gospel while it is still the day of grace! On the other hand, all who come to Jesus in faith and all who are saved in the day of days will know and testify - It is because *His compassions failed not.*

That God is full of compassion and that His compassions fail not points to the precious once for all sacrifice of Christ and its endless worth even for as many as will trust and obey Him. Will you live, by God's grace, ever looking to this only Saviour from sin, humbly depending on Him, and seeking always to honour Him, Whose compassions fail not! Amen.

**Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor**  
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#### **BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



#### BECAUSE HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT

It is my privilege this week to proclaim a gospel truth very precious and relevant indeed. God's holy Word says in Lamentations 3:22 about the Lord, "*His compassions fail not.*"

The word "compassion" is a very meaningful word referring to someone's deep care and tender love for another. If you have compassion on someone, your heart goes out to them in their need, and you reach out to that person in the best way you know how. In Isaiah 49:15 the Lord asks, "*Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion for the son of her womb?*" In Psalm 103:15 we are told, "*As a father pities his child, so the Lord pities them that fear Him.*" The word for "pity" there is the same as the word for "compassionate". In other words, as a true father has compassions for his children, so the Lord is filled with compassions for people like us. Yes, this is God's Word of honest truth - *His compassions fail not!* We read in Psalm 86:15, "*Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion!*"

Do you believe God is a God full of compassion for people like us? Yes, full of compassion also towards you? "*Because His compassions fail not,*" Jeremiah says in Lamentations 3:22. What are you saying to us, inspired prophet of old? Isn't Jeremiah saying, 'There is hope for sinners still, because God's compassions fail not? Isn't he saying that though God comes in judgment against sin, as the people of Judah experienced being sent to Babylon, yet God is merciful too, and He still reaches out to us, not writing us off, but continuing to work to accomplish great salvation for undeserving, hell-deserving sinners like we are, left to ourselves? Listen to the whole verse in Lamentation 3:22, "*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not!*" Do you see with me that Jeremiah is revived in hope and comfort thinking of this gospel truth, "*His compassions fail not*"?

What does that mean - *His compassions fail not*? The Septuagint Greek translation of the Hebrew expresses it, "His compassions cannot be exhausted". You might say, His compassions do not end, are without ceasing; His compassions are not spent, they are not finished; His compassions have not vanished, they are not emptied out, or depleted over time. No, God's compassions continue still, they fail not, in flowing out from

His heart and in reaching out in mercy and love towards sinful people like you and me. The prophet drives it home, in fact, saying, not only negatively speaking, *His compassions fail not*, but positively speaking, he then proclaims, speaking of those compassions of the Lord, *“they are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness!”* Don't ever think, dear friend, now that we are in the year 2005, and fast approaching the year 2006, that God's compassions just are not there any more like before, or somehow harder to retrieve or receive. No, but listen to this Word from God - *“His compassions fail not, they are new every morning!”*

*His compassions fail not.* Am I not correct in thinking too, not only does that mean His compassions are **endless** in this time of grace, but also, His compassions are not just weak helpless feelings of pity, but His compassions *fail not*, in the sense that **His compassions also result in positive accomplishment of help and salvation in all our needs!** As God the Lord is moved deep within His being for mankind lost in sin, and under the bondage and judgment of sin, so **He comes with perfect remedy for us in all our needs.** I, with you, have compassion on the starving people of this world, and on those living in terrible circumstances, but isn't it true, so often we are helpless more or less in reference to all that misery? We can have compassion in many directions and that is good, but often our compassion is so lame, if I may put it that way. Our compassions fail because they stop with feelings of pity, and even when we do as much as we think we can, we all know it is so little compared to all the need out there, all the misery, all the sorrow, all the troubles.

But listen, it is not so with the Lord. His compassions fail not in the sense that not only are they unending in this time of grace, but His compassions fail not in the sense that the Lord has moved to accomplish complete salvation for sinners like us, yes, in and through His dear Son, the crucified and risen Saviour of sinners. No one going to the Lord trusting His compassions fail not will find out that after all they too amount to nothing really. No, His compassions fail not means also there is help to be found with Him in all our needs for body and soul, there is deliverance to be found with Him, yes, salvation rich and free! **This is the gospel—His compassions fail not!** *It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.*

Jeremiah says *His compassions fail not* in a context of experiencing God's judgment for sin. Jeremiah saw, even though God was coming in judgment, He was being merciful still too, for He did not consume them in His holy wrath, and the Lord in unbelievable grace and compassion left a door of hope open still, and continued to work for the complete salvation of sinners, through the sending of the Messiah, His own beloved Son to be Saviour. Yes, and **in Jesus Christ the Saviour sent of the Father, and anointed of the Holy Spirit do we not see in the fullest measure of all, God's compassions fail not?**

**That God** should send His Son to be Saviour of sinners in this wicked, ungodly, rebellious world that was not even asking for Him, and that would only want to slay Him, doesn't that show His compassions fail not? **That Jesus** came and spent Himself living a perfect holy life on sinner's behalf and then gave Himself to die in the sinner's place, the cursed death we deserve, and to endure the unending hell that is all our due, that He should do that and die for the ungodly even as Paul says in Romans 5:6, isn't that amazing grace and evidence His compassions fail not? **That Christ** should steadfastly set His face to Jerusalem to lay down His life a ransom for many, even for as many as repent and believe on Him, doesn't that prove that His compassions fail not? **That Jesus would give Himself up to be crucified on the cross of Calvary**, and be willing so to suffer and made a curse in the sinner's place, to save His people from their sins, doesn't that prove His compassions fail not? **That Jesus** cried out the seven words on the cross, including, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”* and the triumphant cry of His once for all sacrifice for sin, *“It is finished!”*, doesn't that prove His compassions fail not? **And that Jesus** when He arose from the dead searched out His disciples and explained His gospel to them and sent them out to proclaim it to this whole wide world, earnestly calling all to come to Jesus Christ the Saviour for complete and eternal salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Him, yes, without price and without money, doesn't that declare His compassions fail not?! The fact too, **that there have been so many preachers and missionaries and evangelists of the gospel tidings over the centuries**, and that you now too may hear again, and so often even, the splendid, one time, all time gospel of Jesus Christ, isn't that evidence His compassions fail not? This is the gospel message as expressed in Psalm 34:22, *“The Lord redeems the soul of His servants: and none that trust in Him shall be desolate”*...no, *“because His compassions fail not”!*

Are there not all kinds of reasons and needs for you also to look to this Saviour God and depend alone on Him? In Psalm 86, David tells of his trials and struggles in life's journey. Who listening now doesn't have trials and struggles in life's journey? David speaks of threats of danger from outside of him and the nation of Israel, and from within that people, and from within his own heart. David knows his life will go nowhere but downhill and headed for eternal judgment, left to himself, and he appeals to the Lord God for His help and refuge and comfort, that God Whom he describes in verse 15 as a God full of compassion, and gracious, and longsuffering, and abundant in mercy and truth.

Do you look to this Lord God in your life? It is a humbling truth, that shall we be saved we need to be objects of the Lord's compassion all our life long. The Christian knows that to humble ourselves before the Lord is the only right way and the richest way to live. To Whom else shall we go with our sinful selves in this sinful world but to the Triune God as revealed in and with Jesus Christ, Whose compassions fail not? This is a most hopeful and heart-