

Psalms 103:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Analysis

God doesn't deal with us 'according to our sins' or reward 'according to our iniquities,' which would mean universal condemnation. This is the gospel in miniature—God's grace withholds deserved punishment and bestows undeserved favor. The Reformed doctrine of justification recognizes that God treats believers according to Christ's righteousness, not their own failures. Christ received the treatment our sins deserved so believers could receive the blessing His righteousness merited (2 Cor 5:21).

Historical Context

This statement stands in stark contrast to the *lex talionis* (law of retaliation, 'eye for eye') that governed human justice. While civil law requires proportionate punishment, God's grace transcends strict justice in dealing with His people.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does meditating on God's undeserved mercy toward you cultivate humility and gratitude?
2. In what ways can you extend similar grace to others who wrong you?

Interlinear Text

א ל	כְּחַטֵּאֵינוּ	עַ שָׁה	לְנוּ	א ל
H3808	with us after our sins	He hath not dealt	H0	H3808
	H2399	H6213		
	כְּעֹנֹתֵינוּ	גַּם ל	עֲלֵינוּ:	
	us according to our iniquities	nor rewarded	H5921	
	H5771	H1580		

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 9:13 (Parallel theme): And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

Lamentations 3:22 (Parallel theme): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Psalms 130:3 (Parallel theme): If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

Nehemiah 9:31 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

Job 11:6 (Sin): And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

Habakkuk 3:2 (Parallel theme): O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid:
O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make
known; in wrath remember mercy.

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