

# Psalms 103:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

## Analysis

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God's mercy is 'from everlasting to everlasting' ('olam ve'ad olam) upon those who fear Him, contrasting dramatically with grass-like human transience. His righteousness extends to 'children's children,' showing covenant faithfulness across generations. This eternal, multigenerational mercy is the psalm's climax, demonstrating that while humans fade, God's chesed endures forever. The Reformed emphasis on God's eternal covenant recognizes that believers participate in God's everlasting purposes through Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelites thought in generational terms, valuing continuity of family and faith. God's promises extending to children's children assured His people that covenant blessings wouldn't end with one generation.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's everlasting mercy affect your confidence about your eternal future?
2. What legacy of faith are you establishing for future generations in your family?

## Interlinear Text

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בִּלְבָד	יְהוָה הוּא	עוֹלָם	וְעַד	עוֹלָם	עַל
But the mercy	of the LORD	everlasting	to	everlasting	H5921
H2617	H3068	H5769	H5704	H5769	
וְעַל יוֹ	אֲדֹנָיִם	וְעַל יוֹ	אֲדֹנָיִם	וְעַל יוֹ	אֲדֹנָיִם
upon them that fear	him and his righteousness	children	children	children	children
H3373	H6666	H1121	H1121	H1121	H1121

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 100:5** (Grace): For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

**2 Timothy 1:9** (Grace): Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

**Exodus 20:6** (Grace): And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

**Romans 1:17** (Righteousness): For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**Isaiah 51:6** (Righteousness): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

**Jeremiah 31:3** (Eternal Life): The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

**Psalms 118:1** (Grace): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

**Psalms 90:16** (Parallel theme): Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

**2 Peter 1:1** (Righteousness): Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

**Romans 15:8** (Parallel theme): Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: