



**WORD**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. . . .

<sup>1</sup>But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." JONAH 3:10; 4:1,2

**WHAT**

In obedience to God's command, Jonah proclaimed God's message in Nineveh. The Ninevites repented and God relented His judgment. But Jonah did not like God's compassion on the people as if he did not want the Ninevites to repent of their evil ways and be saved. What message does God's being compassionate tell us?

**1 God loves the people in this world.**

<sup>4,5</sup>However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! EPHESIANS 2:4,5, CEB

Like the Pharisees, we all have the tendency to dislike or even hate sinners, when we ourselves are also sinners (Matthew 9:10-13). But thanks be to God who loves us and through Christ, He saved us. Why did Jesus come to the world? How does He see sinners and how should this inspire us to have a change of heart towards them?

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**2 God is gracious and compassionate.**

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. PSALM 145:8,9

If God weren't gracious and compassionate, all of us would have been dead and destined to hell. But because of God's grace and compassion, we were redeemed and blessed. Thus, God wants us to be full of His love and mercy towards all sinners. What does being gracious mean?

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**3 God is patient with us and doesn't want anyone to perish.**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 PETER 3:9

God does not push people to follow Him—He waits on them patiently but at the same time, His greatest desire is to see everyone come to salvation. Knowing this, why should we make every effort to spread the Good News throughout the world?

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