

Despising God's Goodness, Forbearance and Longsuffering

Rom. 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Can be no question about God's having these traits.
 - 1. Goodness¹
 - 2. Forbearance²
 - 3. Longsuffering³
- B. Can be no question that these traits are often "despised"⁴ – as did Jews.

Conclusion:

I. God Goodness Is Often Repaid with *Impenitence* (Rom. 2:4-5).

- A. Mistake His favors and deferral for acceptance.
 - 1. Bestows favor upon all men – good and bad. (Matt. 5:45).
 - 2. Defers judgment to give time to repent. (2 Pet. 3:9).
- B. Mistake His forbearance and longsuffering for approval.

II. God's Forbearance Is Often Repaid with *Hardness* (Rom. 2:5).

- A. Jews were hard and unfair in their judgment of others (Rom. 2:1-2; cf. Mt. 7:1-5).
 - 1. Ignored own sins, magnified sins of others.
 - 2. Ignored God's years of mercy to them as a people.
- B. We must guard against hardness: arrogant, self-righteous, overbearing.
 - 1. Allow knowledge to puff up (1 Cor. 8:1).
 - 2. Forget that we *received* our position from God. (1 Cor. 4:6).

III. God's Longsuffering Is Often Repaid with *Impatience*.

- A. Impatience with God – Want to reap harvest right now (cf. Gal. 6:9).
- B. Impatience is dealing with sin in the world and church. (Cf. Lk. 9:54-56).
 - 1. Can "reprove and rebuke" with all longsuffering. (2 Tim 4:2).
 - 2. Can gently teach those in opposition (2 Tim. 2:23).
 - 3. Can discipline when this fails (1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3).
- C. Impatience in expecting every wrong to be corrected now.
 - 1. Need to leave something for Lord to do. (Cf. Ps. 37:1-11).
 - 2. May do more harm than good (Parable of tares).
- D. Impatience in our stand for the truth. (Cf. Gal. 2:5).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us treasure the goodness, forbearance and longsuffering of God.
- B. Let us profit by coming to repentance.

¹ Kindness." - Vine

² "A delay of punishment" – Vine.

³ "Quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger associated with mercy, and is used of God." – Vine.

⁴ To treat lightly or disregard – not necessarily to hate. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:12; Mt. 6:24).