

THE GOOD SIDE OF GOD

Romans 2:4-11

(Not entirely original with me)

INTRODUCTION: Sadly many people are unaware of how gracious, kind and good God has been and still is. Also many Christians never think about how good God has been to them and don't realize that their being neglectful of God's goodness will one day come back to bother them. Christians need to take a good look at the blessings God has poured out on them and what they may have been missing by not paying more attention to the goodness of God.

I. WHAT GOD'S GOODNESS BRINGS

1. God's goodness brings His riches:
 - God is rich in grace - Ephesians 1:7
 - God is rich in mercy - Ephesians 2:4
 - God is rich in supplying one's needs - Philippians 4:19
 - God is rich in giving things that one enjoys - 1 Timothy 6:17
 - God is rich in providing strength for the Christian - Ephesians 3:16-21
2. God's goodness is shown in His "forbearance:"
 - "Forbearance" meaning a "holding back"
 - God showed forbearance in:
 - the days of Israel - Psalm 78:38
 - today's time (as the fullness of God's wrath is yet to come)
3. God's goodness brings His longsuffering:
 - "Longsuffering" meaning a slowness in showing deserved wrath.
 - God "suffered" long:
 - In the days of Noah before the flood - 1 Peter 3:20
 - In today's time, prior to the coming day of judgment - 2 Peter 3:9-15a
 - *"...But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth..."* Psalm 86:15

II. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S GOODNESS

1. God's goodness should bring a person to repentance:
 - It is intended to cause people to repent - Romans 2:4
 - Paul said God's goodness should produce:
 - Godly sorrow that leads to repentance - 2 Corinthians 7:9-10
 - A change of one's mind, thus repentance.
 - A turn from sin to God, as evidence of repentance - 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
2. God's goodness should lead a person to do what is good:
 - An indicator of having truly repented - 2 Corinthians 7:11
 - It should cause a person to do good patiently as God is patient.

III. WHEN A PERSON REJECTS GOD'S GOODNESS

1. It is indicative of a hard heart:
 - Such a person despises God's goodness - Romans 2:4

- Such a person is insensitive and unappreciative of God's goodness - Romans 2:5
- Such a person remains impenitent in his/her heart - Romans 2:5

2. It stores up God's wrath for the coming day of judgment for that person.
 - The wrath of God's righteous judgment will be poured out - Romans 2:5
 - It will be a day of wrath with tribulation, anguish and separation - Romans 2:8-9a
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 describes what such a day will be like.

CONCLUSION:

1. God is good to all those who do good and blesses them.
2. God will punish all those who do evil.
3. Christian, how much time have YOU given to thinking about how good God has been to you?
4. Christian, have you allowed the goodness of God to cause you to want to share the Gospel to others?