

God Is Longsuffering

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

- I. Longsuffering and patience are practically the same thing.
 - A. The distinction between the two is that longsuffering suggests more pain and suffering than patience does.
 - B. Patience is "cheerful endurance" while longsuffering is to "be suffering a long time."
 - C. God has more than patience with us - He is longsuffering.
 - D. God does suffer because of us - our self-centeredness, disobedience, stubbornness, procrastination, and dullness of mind and ears causes Him grief and pain.
 - E. It also hinders his working in the hearts of people, and his purposes in the world.
 - F. So it costs God to be longsuffering with us.

- II. God is longsuffering because He is willing to wait and to suffer for what He knows we can become.
 - A. Many people think God does not respond fast enough to meet our needs and help us in trouble.
 1. Most of the time we are about to give up long before God is ready to do something to help us.
 2. But we should be thankful that God is also slow about giving us the punishment we deserve.
 3. When we see things go on that seem unjust and wrong and we wonder why God does not do something about it, the answer is because He is longsuffering.
 - B. Each one of us who is saved is only saved because God is longsuffering.
 1. Very few respond the first time God calls.
 2. Most run and hide and resist and rebel and our patience would be exhausted on people like that pretty quickly.
 3. But God waited on each of us for a long time and endured much for our sake in order that we might be saved.
 - C. He is patient while we are careless and unconcerned.
 - D. He is patient while we are caught up in the pursuit of vain things.
 - E. He is patient while we are not listening.
 - F. He is patient while we are spending years learning hard lessons that we refuse to learn any other way.
 - G. He is patient while we are learning and growing.
 - H. He is patient while we are stumbling and confused.

- I. He works with us for a lifetime to conform us to the image of his Son before He takes us home to be with him.

- III. Since God is so longsuffering with us then it is clear that we should be longsuffering toward God and others, also.
 - A. As long as God has waited on us, it is only right for us to be willing to wait a long time on Him.
 - B. When we get impatient with Him we should consider what it would be like if He became impatient with us.
 - C. We should be patient with others around us - family, Christian brethren, co-workers, etc.

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

- D. Longsuffering is part of the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

- E. We should be longsuffering toward folks as they come to know the Lord and learn of Him.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

- 1. Many times it is a painfully slow process.
- 2. For those who are older or more mature in the Lord it seems like they need to be thrashed sometimes, but we need to remember how the Lord patiently brought us along, and how long it took.
- F. God will patiently endure with us until there is no longer any hope for our soul.
 - 1. Only He knows when that is.
 - 2. From where we sit we must simply be longsuffering with others as long as they are alive.