

Scripture: Ex 20 & Num. 13:31-14:21 #15: Series *Knowing God*
Singing: 353:1-3 - 321:1-2 – 234:1, 3, 4 – 397:1, 4, 5, 6 – 432:2, 4

- A. Who is celebrated for his patience?
- B. God's patience is one of the least recognized glories (Pink)
- C. To be ignorant of God's greatness is disastrous
 - 1. makes us fearful
 - 2. makes us arrogant
 - 3. makes us more wicked than 'dare-devils'

The Excellency of God's Patience (1)

I. The glory of this attribute II. The revelation of this attribute

I. The Glory of His Patience

A. The Names of God's patience in Scripture

- 1. Longsuffering: Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:18, 22; 1 Peter 3:20
- 2. Slow to anger (defer my anger): Ps. 103:8-10; Is. 48:9
- 3. Keeping silent: Ps. 50:21
- 4. Not easily provoked: 1 Cor. 13:5
- 5. Forbearance: Rom. 2:4; Jer. 2:13, 23-25; Matt. 21:33-41; Luke 13:6-9

B. Misconceptions of God's patience exposed

1. Is His delay in responding to our evil like our delayed response?

- Ps. 50:21 *These things hast thou done and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself.*

2. Is His delay in fulfilling His promises like us?

- 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.* (Is. 5:3-4)

3. Is His patience with us sinners because He is partially to be blamed?

- Jer. 12:1 *Righteous are thou, O LORD.* (Jer. 9:24)

4. Is His patience with sin like us because He is ignorant of the facts?

- Heb. 4:13 *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.* (Job 34:21-25; Luke 6:8)

5. Is His patience with sin because He doesn't have power, wisdom or courage to respond to sin and therefore, like us, ignores it?

- Job 9:4. 19 *He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?* Job 9:4-12; 1Chron. 29:11-12

6. Is His patience with sinners because He cannot do without him or her or fears our angry response?

- Isaiah 17:12-13 *Woe to the multitude of many people, which make*

a noise like the noise of the seas (...) The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. (Ps. 93:1, 4; 114:7)

C. What is then the glorious magnificence of His patience?

1. God's patience is not just the *delay execution of His judgments*

2. His patience is God's power over Himself

a. Numbers 14:15-25 (especially vs. 17 & 21)

● The power of God is more manifested in His patience to a multitude of sinners than it could be in creating millions of worlds out of nothing: for creating worlds is power over things; patience is power over Himself. (Charnock)

b. Nahum 1:1-3; Prov. 16:32

Close: How will we leave His presence today?

A. Will you stand in awe of Him?

B. Will you hasten to Him?