



<sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (NKJV).

#### *Review*

Paul is bringing home the fact, especially to the Jews, that they, like everybody else, were under the wrath of God and the only hope of salvation to them, as to others, was in the righteousness provided by the Lord Jesus Christ, a righteousness received by faith. The Jews are guilty of the very things for which they condemn others and they are guilty of the fallacy of forgetting that God's judgement is according to truth. They think God's judgement is like their judgement which is fallible and unworthy. The Jews themselves are proof of this having been judged and punished by God repeatedly, though they were His own chosen people.

Because of God's love and goodness, He can never really punish sin, right?

- Have you understood God's goodness? If so, it is impossible to despise it, rather marvel at it!
- Should we just ignore God's righteousness and justice? Will He overlook sin? Is God *slack* (2 Peter 3:9, KJV)?
- Because God is love, do you think He will not punish? This neglects God's character revealed throughout Scripture.
  - What would happen if a country had laws, but didn't enforce them?
  - What if schools did not enforce rules?
  - What happens to a child whose parents set down rules but do not enforce them through punishment?
  - What if God was like an indulgent parent? Would you want Him as your God? What view does the church take of God today?
- Do you manipulate the character of God to serve your own ends? Have you neglected His character to excuse your sin? Do you use God's goodness as a cloak for your sin? Is man at the center rather than God?

*not knowing* i.e., willingly ignorant, contemptuous unconcern, they ought to know, no excuse! (2 Peter 3:4-5)

*leads* as one would lead a horse. There is a constraining influence. Who is Paul talking about? Believers or unbelievers? (2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11; Mt. 23:37). God's goodness leads men in a positive direction toward repentance and salvation.

Were you an enemy of God? How did He treat you? (Mt. 5:43-48)

What happened to predestination? There is a difference between what God desires and what God wills and brings to pass.

God does not wish that any man should perish but left to his own devices *every man would*. Man, in his natural state despises the goodness of God. God has manifested His grace, meant to bring man to repentance, but man just passes it by, until God brings us to repentance by an act of His will and His constraining and effectual grace. (1 Cor. 2:14)

Man will always use God's goodness to serve himself. The last thing he will do is repent. The Holy Spirit, through regeneration, gives a man a new mind, a new outlook, new desires, and a new understanding. He must be born again!

What is the first thing a man does when he is born again? Repent and believe in the gospel! (Mk. 1:15)

*leads to repentance* - Notice - not to salvation and not to Christ as Savior, but to *repentance*. Who was the first preacher in the NT? What did he preach? (Luke 3:3,8; Acts 2:38; Acts 20:21)