



⁴ 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.

Repentance

- Think again! Change your mind and act. Repentance is not an abstraction (Matthew 21:28-32)
- Is tragedy (man-made or naturally occurring) a result of God's judgement? (Luke 13:1-5)
 - Instead of conjecturing on the Galileans' sin, focus on your own sin
 - Rather than assigning wickedness to those killed by the tower of Siloam, examine your own heart.
 - In commenting on the fall of the tower of Siloam, Jesus negates four assumptions that people often make
 - Suffering is proportional to sinfulness.
 - Tragedy is a sure sign of God's judgment.
 - Bad things happen only to bad people.
 - We have the right to make such judgments.
 - When tragedy hits the headlines, Jesus bids us to look to the sin within us and take the headline as a warning to repent. Examine yourself (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5)
- Turn or burn! (Matthew 13:10-17)
- The Jew (we) has the wrong idea about who **God** is. His conclusion about the goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering of God is wrong. If God is love...
 - How can God allow for epileptic children?
 - Why does He allow for war?
 - Repentance is the reversal of what happened in the Garden of Eden – 'Hath God said?' (Job 40:4; 42:1-6; Romans 7:18)
- Our idea of **self** changes. We go from 'God is not fair to us!' to 'How can God tolerate us at all?' (Luke 18:9-14)
- Our conception of the **world** changes. It is no longer a playground for sin. We are sojourners on a pilgrimage travelling home to God (Hebrews 11:9).
- And so, because of this profound change in our idea of God, self, and the world, our conduct and behavior change. This change is the *end result* of repentance not the cause.
- The questions we should ask is, 'Why is He so good to us? Why does He not blast us out of existence and condemn us for all eternity?'
- Be amazed at His mercy, compassion, forbearance, longsuffering and end by worshipping Him!