

The Goodness Of God – Romans 2:4-11

Bible Study ~ 5/11/16
Grace Church of Lockeford

This passage is a contrast between positive and negative consequences. If you walk in obedience, there is blessing. If you disobey, there is the expectation of God's wrath. We want to focus on the three blessings that are listed here as results of the goodness of God. **The first is that...**

1. The Goodness Of God Leads To Repentance v. 4

In the first 3 verses Paul addresses someone who is judging others while engaging in the same behavior himself. Yet somehow this man thinks he will escape God's judgment. This action displays a disdain for God's goodness, forbearance and longsuffering. He doesn't understand that God's goodness in restraining His judgment is designed to provide opportunity for this man to repent. This is the same truth found in [2Peter 3:9, 15](#). The longsuffering of the Lord is for the purpose of salvation. So that those who have not yet trusted in Christ may have opportunity to do so. This man has no understanding of this reality. Leads = *to be a guiding or motivating force for someone's actions*. The goodness of God expressed in his tolerance and longsuffering is what motivates repentance. Repentance = *a change of self (heart and mind) that abandons former dispositions and results in a new self, new behavior, and regret over former behavior and dispositions*.

When we come to Christ this is where all of us find ourselves. We are dependent on God's goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. Were He not longsuffering we would all be dead. We would face the punishment for our actions. Here is an amazing blessing of God! He is good and His goodness is what draws and motivates us to repent, to change our minds, to trust in Christ, and to begin to live in obedience. The goodness of God leads us to repentance. **Secondly...**

2. The Goodness Of God Gives Eternal Life vv. 5-7

Verse 5 presents the negative side of things. This man being addressed has ignored God's goodness. He has hardened his heart and is impenitent. He is not sorry. This activity is pictured as treasuring up wrath for the day when he will stand before the Lord to be judged. Treasuring = *to store. To keep or lay aside for future use*. Refusal to repent after tasting the goodness of God is the equivalent of collecting wrath and storing carefully storing it up so you can enjoy it later! It is a ridiculous picture! Little bit of a side note: God's wrath is called righteous. This means it is just, right, and fair. Each man will receive according to his deeds. While we are condemned or not based on our acceptance or rejection of Christ, those who had greater light will face greater punishment. Those who have accepted Christ receive eternal life!

This is not teaching works based salvation. Actually, what Paul is stating here is that if we were able to continually do good, we would receive eternal life based on that. However, since we cannot ([Romans 3:10-11](#)) it comes through Jesus Christ. The point I want to make is that this is what we receive, not for our works, but for our faith. We are also told we will be glorified ([Romans 8:30](#)), receive honor ([2Timothy 2:12](#)), and live forever ([1Thessalonians 4:17](#)). These are all results of the goodness of our God! **It leads us to repentance, it gives us eternal life, and lastly...**

3. The Goodness Of God Brings Glory, Honor, And Peace vv. 8-11

Again we have a negative statement. Those who are disobedient to the truth and instead obey unrighteousness face indignation and wrath. Their disobedience is said to be connected to their selfishness. Self-seeking = *a strong drive for personal success without moral inhibitions*. Truth here is the word normally translated gospel. So they are disobedient to the gospel. Rather than believe in Christ they choose to seek personal fulfillment apart from morality. Indignation = *punishment or fury*. Wrath = *the outworking of God's righteous indignation at sin. Long building anger*. This is the result of their

actions. Also tribulation and anguish. Everyone, no matter their background, ethnicity, or religiousness. Those who do not trust in Christ, face God's wrath. **BUT**.

Again, if we could be perfectly good this would be the reward. But we can't, instead we get these things through faith in Jesus Christ! Glory, honor, and peace. Same as v. 7 except peace instead of immortality. This is a calm in the midst of the storm, not absence of conflict. *Philippians 4:7*. All who believe are given this, no matter their background, ethnicity, or anything else. God shows no partiality. This is His goodness! It brings glory, honor, and peace. We need peace so desperately in these troubled times. It comes to us through the goodness of God. God's goodness leads us to repentance, it gives us eternal life, and it glory, honor, and peace.

CHALLENGE: Rejoice in the goodness of God and all that it brings!