

The Longsuffering of God

I. False Views Of Longsuffering

The sinner hopes God . . .

- Will punish only temporarily. Mt.25:41
- Will modify plan of salvation to save us in sin. Jn.12:48; 14:6
- Will forgive. Ro.11:22
- Will look the other way at Judgment.
2 Co.5:10
- Imputes righteousness of Christ to us
. . . or covers us with His righteousness.
Ac.8

I. False Views Of Longsuffering

II. God's Longsuffering Is...

Long - suffering

- Opposite of short-tempered.
- Patience with people; ability to bear long with ...
 - Ex.32 – blessed Israel unlike any other nation

One man with prayer stands
between Israel and destruction

– Ex.34:6

Long - suffering

The promise of longsuffering . . .

- Not based on just deserts.
- Not saying God is soft on sin.

Israel without intercession of Moses: doomed

We without intercession of Christ: doomed

- Based on love: God of OT wants them saved. Jn.3:16

Long
Limited

- “Long” is not “eternal.”
- God cannot merely love and overlook sin.
- Ro.3:25-26
 - Judge
 - Parent
- Num.14:18, fully warned; presumed...
- Ac.5, illustrates Hb.10:26-31

Long ... Limited ...

Loving

- Ezk.33:11

Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have **no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

- 1 Tim.2:4

“...who **desires all men to be saved**, and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

Long ... Limited ... Loving

Loathed

Despise: look down on with contempt; not important enough to concern them; think slightly of.

Romans 2:4 –

-no Calvinism here

-no mythology here

- **Goodness**: kindness; gracious attitude and acts of God
- **Forbearance**: hold back (punishment). Gn.15
- **Longsuffering**: patience; He waits long...

God's intention: lead us
to repentance.

¹gives time to repent.

²melts heart with goodness.

ROMANS 2

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- Longsuffering: patience; He waits long...

Long ... Limited ... Loving

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Romans 2:5 –

-hardness, stubbornness (Israel)

I. False Views Of Longsuffering

II. God's Longsuffering Is ...

III. God Is
Longsuffering to ...

Sinners

- “The problem is always sin; the answer is always the gospel”
- 1 Tim.1:16, Saul
- 1 Pt.3:20, flood
- 2 Pt.3:9, slowness to judgment

His delay gives the lost more time

His longsuffering is that all may repent

His will allows all to be saved

Sinners
Saints

- 1 Co.5:1-2
 - “You do something...or the Lord will”

Sinners
Saints
Societies

- “If God were not longsuffering, the Bible would have ended in three chapters.”
- Hab.: ‘Why doesn’t He do something?’
- Mt.21:33-46, Jews again (Ro.9:22)
- 2 Pt.3:15

I. False Views Of Longsuffering

II. God's Longsuffering Is ...

III. God Is Longsuffering To...

IV. Lessons on Longsuffering

1. God wants us to win.

Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live? – Ezek.18:23

Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ – Lk.13:7

2. God is willing to forgive.

- Luke 15: prodigal son
 - Sons attitude / actions are insulting
 - “Would you take him back?”

3. God waits for our repentance.

- Luke 15: dramatic change
 - Who first heard this parable?
 - What did Peter and others need daily?
 - Mk.16:7–

But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

4. God wins by His goodness.

- Ro.2:4
 - Gave His only Son
 - Revealed plan to save
 - Spared lives

5. God wants us to be like Him.

Longsuffering: a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation – patience

- Gal.5:22
- Ep.4:2
- Col.3:12