

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Patience and Repentance

Romans 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-13

May 1, 2018

Main Point

God's patience leads people to repentance.

Introduction

What is your least favorite thing to wait for? Why?

Are some things better when you have to wait for them? Why or why not?

Review

- Authorship _____
- Recipients _____
- Date of Letters writing _____
- Occasion _____
- Paul and the Gospel (1:1-6) Paul and the Romans (1:7-13) Paul and Evangelism (1:14-17)
Depraved (Gentile) Society (1:18-32) Critical Moralizers (2:1-16)

Understanding -- Romans 2:1-3.

Romans 2:1-2 (NIV2011) ¹You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

Why do you think we are so prone to judge others in their sin when we are trusting in our own righteousness?

What do we communicate about ourselves when we judge other people for their sins? What do we communicate about God?

Glance back at Romans 1:18-32.

What do we learn about the world and the people in it from Romans 1-2?

Understanding -- Romans 2:4-11

Romans 2:4-11 (NIV2011) ⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ⁷To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then

for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

Given Paul's description of the world and of the human heart up to this point in Romans, why might people misunderstand the God's purpose in being patient with the world?

What does Paul mean by saying people can presume on the riches of God? Have you been guilty of that before? What led you to change?

Why is God patient with us? How have you experienced God's kindness, restraint, and patience?

What are the standards by which God will judge people?

What kind of behavior characterizes those with eternal life?

Understanding -- 2 Peter 3:8-13.

2 Peter 3:8-13 (NIV2011) ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Why isn't God slow to fulfill His promises? How did Peter describe God's sense of time?

Why has God delayed Christ's return even to this day?

Application

How might a deeper awareness of God's patient love help us combat the pride in our hearts that distracts us from Him?

How might remembering that God's patience leads people to repentance help you cultivate patience in your heart?

What can you do to be more consistently aware of the kindness and patience God has shown you?

How might such an awareness change the way you relate to the lost people God has placed in your life?

