

Reading: Romans 2:1-11; 15:1-7
Singing: 50:1-3 – 284:1-3 – 206:1-5 – 96:1-4

Opening Observations

- God's patience is often mentioned together with His mercy and grace (Ex. 34:6-7; Num. 14:18; Ps. 103:8; 145:8)
- God's patience is *excellency of God which causes Him to sustain great injuries without immediately avenging Himself*
 1. His patience is *the temporal silence of justice & speech of mercy*
 2. Is such a God worthy to be served? (Jer. 10:6-7)
- Resist fiercely the interpretation that *God's patience is an uncalled indulgence of sinners out of weakness or softness*
 1. Such thinking contradicts the revelation of the Cross
 2. It also ignores the reality of an eternal hell
 3. His patience is the beauty of God as revealed in Ezek. 33:11
Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

III. WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSES TO GOD'S PATIENCE TO BE?

A. Begin with *the worship of adoration – praise*

1. One chief part of personal prayer life should consist in *adoration*
2. Should not every day provide us *multiple moments to extol God!?*

B. Follow up with *repentance* Rom. 2:1-5

1. Why does God forbear with sinners like we (all) are!?
 - a. our description: 1-3
 - b. God's initial response: vs. 4
 - c. what happens when we ignore the riches of His goodness: vs. 5

- d. what will God do in the end: vs. 6-9
2. So why is God suspending – delaying *His righteous wrath*?
 - a. Is He ripening us for judgment or do we ripen ourselves?
 3. God calls us *urgently to repent now if you will hear His voice*
 - a. this can't be delayed
 - b. this must not be ignored: *we sinned against an infinite God!*

C. Pursue Imitation: Be like Him!

1. Rom. 15:1-5
 - a. Church in Rome is divided about *trivial things*
 - their ought to be agreement on the essentials but there is liberty in the non-essentials
 - b. both groups are to exercise *forbearance – be like minded*
2. Col. 3:12-15
 - a. context is 'general'
 - living with fellow saints will be challenging before heaven
 - some have *character issues that are hard to live with*
 - many have to *live with dents, scrapes, wounds* of the past
 - b. Paul exhorted: *instead of disgust – irritation – harsh words put on*
 - see vs. 12-15
3. How can I ever become like this? How reach this 'fruit of Spirit?'
 - a. Be like Moses: 2 Cor. 3:18
 - b. Be patient: Rom. 15:4; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-3