



God's Patience

By Johnny Caruso on November 3, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Revelation 9

The Lord allows one-third of humanity to die in His attempt to bring the remaining to repentance. This is not the first time He went to drastic measures in dealing with man. God did something similar to Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt during the plagues under Moses' leadership. It is sad and strange that in spite of these judgments, two-thirds of earth's population still does not come to real repentance. Not only do they refuse to repent, it is clear that they continue to seek help from their sorceries and idol worship rather than turn to the living God.

Romans 2:4: *"Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"* Remember all the things we read about in the Book of Revelation happen for God to get the attention of those who have not come to Him in repentance.

Our heavenly Father's kindnesses toward us are meant to draw us back to Him, causing us to repent of our sins. He pours out compassionate acts and circumstances, help and blessings as good gifts from Him. He holds on to us tightly in our selfish, sinful condition. We do read here about the judgment of God that is coming, but it is His grace, His goodness and His mercy that ultimately attract us. That is no doubt why we are called to pass it on to others and show kindness to them.

A couple weeks ago Trish and I went to California to a conference about the Puritans. One of the Puritans we know from the books he has written, John Bunyan, was a 17th-century British pastor. When we were at the conference I read a quote that he said: "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

When I was younger, I admired smart people (I still do because I am not). Now that I am older I admire God's people. If we want to share the gospel and add souls to the kingdom and win others to the Lord, it is clear that loving kindness is God's method. But for me, it is kindness with a motive. The motive is to share the love and forgiveness of Christ to a lost and dying world.

PRAYER: Lord, help us have the confidence Jesus had. Teach us who we really are in You. Help us live our lives in such a way that others would see Whose we are.

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 10

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