



Sermon Notes August 23, 2020

The God of Longsuffering (part 6)

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 8:3-7

I. God is spoken of as being longsuffering.

- I. The word **longsuffering** is also translated as **patience**.
 - a. Longsuffering is **staying power**.
 - b. It's what we do because we often **anticipate a desired result**.
 - c. We are long suffering because we believe that the end result will be a blessing.
 - d. This attribute of God is spoken of in I Peter 3:20
 - e. To demonstrate His longsuffering, the people had ample time to consider the life they were living and change.
 - f. It says the patience of God kept waiting.
 - g. Genesis 6:5,11
 - i. Man was wicked
 - ii. Every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was evil
 - iii. The earth was corrupt
 - iv. The earth was filled with violence
 - h. It was during these days that Noah was described as a preacher of righteousness. 2 Peter 2:5
 - i. Jesus tells us an how the people reacted to Noah. Matthew 24:37-39
 - i. They didn't listen.
 - ii. They didn't understand what was about to happen even though they were warned by Noah.
 - iii. They continued living as if nothing was going to happen any different than the day before.
 - j. It says, "they knew not until the flood came".
 - k. It's not that they didn't hear, but they didn't listen.
 - l. These people are as Jesus describe in Matthew 7:24-27
 - i. These were foolish people who heard and didn't change
 - m. Noah may not have understood completely, but he understood enough to obey God.
 - i. He built an ark.
 - ii. And he preached how to live right.
 1. The world rejected the message.
 - n. God was demonstrating His longsuffering in allowing time for people to listen and change their way of living. 1 Peter 3:20
 - o. God's longsuffering kept Him waiting.
 - p. How about Noah?
 - i. We don't read about his longsuffering.
 - ii. Do you think there were days that he wished he didn't

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have to build the ark?

- iii. Do you think there were days that he wished God would wait till he was dead and have someone else build the ark?
- iv. Or maybe he thought, if God is this longsuffering with His creation, maybe I need to be that longsuffering also.

1. Matthew 10:8 “..freely you have received, freely give”

- q. Why did God wait?
 - i. He doesn't want anyone to perish. 2 Peter 3:9
 - ii. He doesn't want people to die in their wickedness. Ezekiel 33:11
- r. God's longsuffering yielded only 8 souls saved.

II. What should we guard ourselves against?

- a. Ignoring the long suffering of our great God should be a concern to all of us.
- b. In II Peter 3 we have an exhortation from the Spirit of God that we would all be wise to listen to.
- c. We should guard ourselves against:
 - i. **Mockery:** vrs. 3
 - 1. We can mock God by our walk.
 - a. When we continue in lustful living – we mock with our walk.
 - ii. **Complacency.** Vrs 4
 - 1. Don't put off to tomorrow, the decisions that you should make for God today – it may be too late.
 - iii. **Forgetfulness:** Vrs. 5-10
 - 1. The cares of this life can cause you to forget what is most important.
 - a. It's easy to let the physically urgent cause us to forget what is spiritually essential.

III. What can we do as recipients of God's grace(Favor)?

- a. **Desire holy living and godliness.** Vrs. 11
- b. **Look for and earnestly desire God's return.** Vrs. 12
 - i. Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
- c. **Keep our focus on the eternal.** Vrs. 13
- d. **Remain in Christ forgiveness.** Vrs. 14
 - i. Remember only through Christ's forgiveness can you be at peace, be cleansed and be without blame.
- e. **Reach others for Christ during His longsuffering.** Vrs. 15

Have you responded to God's longsuffering?