

# The Lord is Longsuffering Part 1

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*“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”* Psalms 86:15

Last week we spoke on the goodness of God and this morning and next week we want to consider His longsuffering, or “The Lord is Longsuffering.” This morning’s message is more of an introduction to this blessed attribute of God. I am so thankful that God is good and that God is longsuffering. I see my sins, my faults, my shortcomings and how I come so short of the glory of God that I just shake my head and say, thank you Lord for being longsuffering and plenteous in mercy which is cemented in gracious compassion. In Psalm 86 we see four blessed attributes that are ascribed to God: 1. God is full of compassion. 2. God is gracious. 3. God is longsuffering and 4. God is plenteous in mercy. In verse 5 of this Psalm God is said to be good or the goodness of God and in verse 10 He is call great or the greatness of God. All of these attributes describe the kindness and benevolence of God to us and that He and He alone is the only True and Living God. In verses 8 & 10 of this Psalm, we are told, *“Among the gods **there is none like unto thee**, O Lord; neither are there **any works like unto thy works**. 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: **thou art God alone.**”* David sets forth God as the Living and True God to whom there is none like Him, therefore the God of the Bible is the only God, the true God, He is GOD ALONE!

This Psalm provides sweet morsels of bread for the hungry child of God, but it also provides hope to the sinner outside Christ because it sets forth the aspect of His forgiveness and compassion to sinners. Notice verse 5, *“For thou, Lord, **art good, and ready to forgive**; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”* God is ready to forgive and if you are outside Christ this morning are you ready to receive forgiveness so that you can experience the joy of David and of every soul whom God has saved, verse 13, *“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”* Thus you can say also what David said in verse 12, *“I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.”* Therefore, let the redeemed of the LORD says so!

There is so much here in this Psalm, it’s like going through a spiritual buffet line, what is your need this morning, what are you hungering for? What do you want from God this morning? Do you need mercy, grace, compassion, goodness, longsuffering, forgiveness, perseverance, lifting up of downcast soul, strength and or joy? What do you need this morning? Come, trusting and believing as in verses 6 & 7, *“Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. 7 In the day of my trouble I will*

*call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.*” This Psalm is a spiritual balm or ointment for anyone and everyone, both save and lost, come and fill you needs this morning, start off 2011 in the right path in the right way. Whatever you are lacking can be met in this Psalm by God.

Now, again the topic of my message is, “The Lord is Longsuffering.” There is so much in this Psalm, but we will narrow it down to the longsuffering of God. When we read verse 15 again notice how the longsuffering of God is sandwich between the compassion and mercy of God, “*But thou, O Lord, art a God **full of** compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and **plenteous in** mercy and truth.*”

The longsuffering of God is centered and highlighted between full of compassion and plenteous in mercy. God is full of compassion and God is plenteous in mercy, that is, God is full of and plenteous in His longsuffering or perhaps we can put it another way, God is full of patience and has plenty of patience. This is the essence of His longsuffering, full of and plenteous in, which without this we would all be dragged to the pit of hell. If you are outside Christ, consider that the justice of God will be exercised against sin, but because God is full of compassion and plenteous in mercy, He is presently longsuffering and has not thus far executed judgment yet. It does not mean He will not, but He has in His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering allowed you to live another day, so that His goodness will lead you to repentance. “*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*” Romans 2:4.

Verse 15 also says that God is gracious and this describes His loving kindnesses that are saturated in His unmerited mercy which is bestowed on hell deserving sinners. Thus, God is full of compassion, plenteous in mercy, gracious in His loving-kindness, therefore longsuffering, that is, slow to anger, but ready to forgive. This is the God of the Bible, this is the God David has describe for us: “*8 Among the gods **there is none like unto thee**, O Lord; neither are there **any works like unto thy works**. 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: **thou art God alone.**” This is not like the imaginary gods of men, which, if you cross their man made gods, those imaginary gods are ready to crush you and destroy you, but the Living and True God, is slow to anger and ready to forgive why? Because He is FULL OF compassion and PLENTEOUS IN mercy and acts GRACIOUSLY in LONGSUFFERING! I believe this is why people sometimes have a hard time believing and trusting that God will simply forgive them through His beloved Son Jesus Christ. They feel that they have to do something so that God can accept them based upon their own merits and if Satan can keep you believing this false concept, he knows that you will easily subscribe to a works salvation. That is why everyone wants to do something, perform some religious rite or perform some good*

work so that they can say to themselves, “now will god be happy with me and accept me.” Jer.1:16 says, “*And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and **worshipped the works of their own hands.***” The same thing is said by Stephen in Acts 7:40 & 41, “*Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and **rejoiced in the works of their own hands.***” Man enjoys boasting in their own works. But the word of God clearly says that salvation is apart from works, Eph.2:8 & 9, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” Titus 3:5, “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...*” But, if Satan keeps a person trusting in works and in what they do, that is, looking to their own selves for their salvation, he knows he can keep them from trusting in the Living and True God. 2 Cor.4:3 & 4, “*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*”

Satan still pipes in the ear of people saying, has God really said that He will forgive, is God really longsuffering is God really compassionate and is God really merciful? Well the answer to these questions is unequivocally and clearly YES! This is the whole essence of the gospel, this is why it is called the good news, it is absolutely good news to hear that God will FORGIVE sin, base solely upon the work and merit of Jesus Christ. God is satisfied with the sacrifice of His Son, to completely and fully meet all His demands of justice. Without Christ there is no hope, this is why He clearly said in John 14:6, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***” Peter confronting the religious group of his stay makes this profound statement, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” Acts 4:12. Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost makes this glorious statement, “*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” Acts 2:21. Turn quickly to Romans 10:1-12. Forgiveness is found only in God, not in anything we do, but only in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. Eph.1:6 & 7 clearly shows that we are accepted by God only in His beloved Son and not in anything we do or perform, thus the importance of taking our eyes from ourselves and setting upon the Lord Jesus Christ, “*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*” This is the essence of God being full of compassion and plenteous in mercy which is the impetus or driving force of His longsuffering. Aren't you glad God is slow to anger, but ready to forgive? Aren't you glad that God does not execute judgment speedily, but is

patience, forbearing and longsuffering. One commentator says, *“Neither is the equity of God impeached by the exercise of His patience. The justice of God shall never know a cloud. He must cease to be God, if he cease to be just. The exercise, therefore, of His patience in no degree lessens His righteousness. He may “pass sentence against an evil work,” and yet not “execute it speedily” the infliction of punishment thus giving place to the restraint of patience, and yet remain a holy and a righteous Lord God... Or, would it involve an impeachment of the justice of the sovereign if, in the exercise of the mercy of the crown, the criminal were not immediately hurried from the bar to the gibbet? And shall God be regarded as less holy or less just, if, in the exercise of His marvelous patience, he spares the guilty sinner, giving space for repentance? Oh, no! To a superficial eye He may seem to overlook wickedness because the sentence against it is not speedily executed; and the wicked man, presuming upon the arrest of judgment, may harden himself in his wickedness; nevertheless, God hates the sin though He bears long with the sinner, and sooner or later the wrath that has been thus long ‘treasuring up against the day of wrath’ will overtake and overwhelm the ungodly.”* Oh dear sinner friend do not take lightly the longsuffering of God because at some point it will come to an end and nothing but the awful wrath of God will await you. Isa.55: 6 & 7, *“Seek ye the LORD **while he** may be found, call ye upon him **while he** is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* But, Psalm 7:12 & 13, says *“If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. 13 He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors.”* Jer.50:25 & 31, *“The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this is the work of the Lord GOD of hosts... Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee.”*

Oh beware dear sinner that you do not take lightly the compassion, mercy and longsuffering of God, for He might open His armory against you and if He does, there is none that can stay His hand! Don't trample underfoot the mercy and compassion of a longsuffering God!

May God be please to open your eyes and see His goodness and longsuffering in order to bring you to repentance so that you can in faith call upon God for salvation. Again in Romans 2:4, *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”* Oh to God that you would truly believe that God is really FULL OF COMPASSION and PLENTEOUS IN MERCY and that there is nothing you can do to merit this from God. God in His graciousness has provided His Son for all your salvation, what God wants you to see is your sinfulness, that you have trampled underfoot His Holy LAW and thus, His judgment and wrath awaits you at death unless you come to Him in repentance and faith. He can at this very moment put you in hell, but the Living and True God is FULL OF COMPASSION and PLENTEOUS IN MERCY that is, His LONGSUFFERING is the only thing that keeps you out of hell. Oh dear people, God does not have to be

longsuffering and none of us know when His longsuffering ends, because He is patient, He is full of compassion, He is plenteous in mercy and He is a gracious God, but again at some point, His longsuffering ends and God's justice will vindicate Him and His wrath must be poured out upon sin.

If you go hell, it will be your own fault and not's God. God has provided all the means necessary for a person to be saved. Thus, we ask you this morning what Pilate asked of himself over 2000 years ago, Matt.27:22, "*Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?*" We ask you this morning what will you do with this man called Christ? Don't let another year go by or for that matter another hour, day, week, month year go by without answering this important question. What will I do with Christ?

If you walk out of this auditorium this morning without Christ, you are apparently choosing death rather than life. The Lord Jesus Christ told the religious people of His day in John 5:40, "*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*"

Let's conclude our sermon in Jeremiah 8 this morning. We see right off the bad that many choose death over life look at verse 3. Notice the arguments of Jeremiah beginning in verse 4 and following: 4-9. And what do most do, what is said in 14, just sit still! Then the conclusion in verses 20 - 22: "*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. 21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. 22 **Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?***" Reminds me of that blessed hymn, "Brethren we have met to worship."

"Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;  
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;  
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?  
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;  
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him;  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;  
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.  
Then He'll call us home to Heaven, at His table we'll sit down;  
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around."

**Oh to God that His Spirit would blow again at 5426 Hillburn Drive!**

Used illustration from the Titanic: April 14, 1912 struck an iceberg  
and sunk that very night.