

Bible Study: The Character of God

XIV. God is Longsuffering

Passages to read:

Exodus 34:6; Romans 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:22; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:9

Related passages for personal study:

- * Proverbs 15:18, 16:32; Matthew 18:23-35; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 1:11, 3:12; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 5:7-10

Description of longsuffering:

- * Having forbearance, patience; to bear with, endure, be slow to wrath
- * “**Longsuffering** (Strong’s #3114 - 3116) is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God. **Patience** (Strong’s #5278, 5281) is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope, 1 Thesalonians 1:3; it is not used of God.”¹

Aspects To Consider:

- * God is longsuffering toward sinners (*Romans 2:4*)
 - o What does “to usward” mean in 2 Peter 3:9?
- * To be longsuffering is an act of love (*1 Corinthians 13:4*)
- * Longsuffering is linked with the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22*) & the Son (*1 Timothy 1:16*)
- * Do we read of God being “longsuffering” toward Saints? Why or why not?

How should a longsuffering God affect me?

- * We should be longsuffering with one another in daily living. (*Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:12*)
- * We should be longsuffering toward others in our preaching (*2 Timothy 4:2*)
- * We should be longsuffering in tribulation (*James 5:7-11; Romans 12:12*)

Questions for Discussion

¹ W.E. Vine