

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:1-9**.
- B. As we look at the 5th element of the fruit of the Spirit, let us look at some differences in translations:
 - 1. The KJV says gentleness for kindness, and meekness for gentleness.
 - 2. The NAS, NIV, and NKJ says kindness and gentleness.
- C. Erdman defines kindness as "a desire for the welfare even of those who are continually taxing our patience."

I. GOD IS KIND TOWARD MAN.

- A. We must begin with the one who is perfect in kindness and that is God. God is kind.
- B. Ephesians 2:1-9 gives a picture of man in his sinful condition and what God has done about it. In kindness towards us, He sent CJ (see Eph. 2:7).
- C. Paul writes unto Titus a long and complicated sentence but one full of good things about our salvation. It has come about by the appearing of kindness which is Jesus Christ (Titus 3:4-5).
But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- D. A most powerful passage showing the great fulfillment of prophecy to the Gentiles as well as the Jews is in Rom. 11. And our salvation rests on the kindness of God in His workings (Rom. 11:20-22).
Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
- E. Let us show kindness to those who sin against us as God has shown His kindness to us.

II. SOME PASSAGES ON KINDNESS.

- A. Kindness is a quality that is found in our words (Prov. 31:26).
She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- B. Being slow to anger is that quality called kindness (Joel 2:13).
And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil.
- C. Kindness is a desirable quality even in men! (Prov. 19:22). Some translations may have "loyalty".
What is desirable in a man is his kindness, And it is better to be a poor man than a liar.
- D. Kindness also means forgiveness, and being tenderhearted (Eph. 4:32).
And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- E. We are to be kind to ungrateful and evil men. Give without asking in return (Lk. 6:35).
"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.
- F. We are to put on a heart of compassion and kindness (Col. 3:12-13).
And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- G. And we are to have the attribute of kindness as a Xian grace which is increasing (2Pet. 1:7).
and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Kindness is a powerful attribute that will change our lives and the lives of others.
- B. Next time: goodness.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.