

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 13:4-8a**.
- B. Paul describes love much as "ROY G. BIV" describes the colors of sun light.
- C. I believe Paul is talking about patience with people not things although that would apply.
- D. The first quality of a person who loves is long-suffering.

I. PATIENCE OR LONG-SUFFERING?

- A. There are two Greek words that are translated either as long-suffering or patience.
 - 1. *Hupomone* found in Lk. 8:15; 21:19.
(Lk 8:15) "And the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."
(Lk 21:19) "By your endurance you will gain your lives."
 - 2. *Makrothymia* found in Rom. 2:4; 1Pet. 3:20; 2Pet. 3:9.
- B. *Hupomone* means to endure or be patient, while *makrothymia* means to hold mind or hold back anger. For our purposes this morning we will treat these terms alike.

II. GOD IS THE PATIENT ONE.

- A. The mockers misunderstood God's patience. We see it as salvation. Notice the following:
 - 1. In the days of Noah, God's patience waited (1Pet. 3:20).
...who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.
 - 2. God is long-suffering which means salvation (2Pet. 3:9, 15).
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **15** ...and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,
 - 3. God's patience should lead us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).
Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
- B. Paul knew of God's patience in his own life, which meant salvation (1Tim. 1:15-16).
It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. **16** And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
- C. As we cry out for God's vengeance against sinners, God says, "Wait, maybe they will yet repent" (Rev. 6:9-11).
When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; **10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" **11** And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

III. EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE.

- A. Abraham was faithful and patient in God's promises (Heb. 6:12-15).
so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, **14** saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." **15** And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.
- B. The impatient turn to riches for satisfaction, but James says that is a mistake. Christians are to be patient for the coming of the Lord (Jas. 5:7a).
Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.

- C. James gives three powerful illustrations of patience:
 - a. The farmer (5:7).
Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
 - b. The prophets (5:10).
As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
 - c. Job (5:11).
So that He sets on high those who are lowly, And those who mourn are lifted to safety.

IV. LOVE IS PATIENT (LONG-SUFFERING).

- A. Preachers are to instruct with great patience (2Tim. 4:2; 3:10).
(2Tim 3:10) But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,
(2Tim 4:2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- B. "God loves people and wants them changed, even if it takes a lifetime to do it and even if the change is small."
- C. God has been patient w/us, resulting in salvation; we need to be patient with others so they might come to know God's salvation.
- D. How to develop patience:
 - 1. Get in the right frame of mind. The more we think of God's patience in us, the easier it will become for us to be patient with others (see Psa. 37:5-11).
 - 2. We become impatient when we think more of ourselves than others. Self-centeredness and patience go hand-in-hand (Mt. 20:28).
"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
 - 3. Pray for God to help you see "the big picture." We get upset over things that amount to nothing (2Pet. 3:5). The mockers didn't see the "big picture."
For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,
- E. Pick out one area in your life that makes you impatient and for the next week (or month) work on it!

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The parable of the unmerciful servant is a lesson in long-suffering. The first servant asked for patience (long-suffering) and received it (Mt. 18:26).
"The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.' "
- B. But when he would not extend long-suffering to another, the master withdrew his patience and was moved with anger (Mt. 18:34).
"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him."
- C. When we decide to love, we will learn to show patience.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.