

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 18:21-35**.
- B. Tonight's lesson is about the long-suffering of God. To be able to define it, understand it, and appreciate it.

## I. LONG-SUFFERING IS GOOD.

- A. It is possible to exhaust the long-suffering of God (Psa. 7:12ff).
- B. Long-suffering is a virtue of those who are wise (Prov. 19:11).
- C. Those who are long-suffering have great understanding (Prov. 14:29).
- D. Having the virtue of long-suffering is more mighty than ruling a city (Prov. 16:32).
- E. We can use long-suffering to persuade rulers (Prov. 25:15).

## II. THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERICFUL SERVANT.

- A. Jesus taught by parable the meaning of God's long-suffering (Mt. 18:21-35).
- B. The words, 'patience' in v.26 and v.29 are better understood as long-suffering.
- C. God (the king) held his anger while his servant was forgiving others.
- D. God (the king) became full of anger and released it in v.34.
- E. We see this attitude and action of God in the OT (1Pet. 3:20).
- F. The world will probably end again when Gen. 6:5 comes true. God is long-suffering until that time, when the remnant (the church) will be saved.

## III. LONG SUFFERING IS SALVATION, DON'T MOCK IT.

- A. Mockers are ridiculing their only hope of salvation (2Pet. 3:3-9, 15).
- B. A side point on v.7: Scientists wonder why the universe does not go into chaos? Answer: the power of the word of God.
- C. Focus on v.15. Each day we live is one more chance to get right with God. Thank you Lord, for your long-suffering nature.
- D. Therefore, no matter what happens every day is a super great day.

## IV. MAKING IT PRACTICAL.

- A. James tells us to be long-suffering in two ways; to God and to one another (Jas. 5:7-8; 5:9-11).
- B. Remember the examples given of Job and the prophets.

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Long-suffering is more than patience, it is an attribute of God.
- B. Remember Paul said that love is long-suffering (1Cor. 13:4).
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.