Road To Repentance

Intro: Paul declares that God leads men to repent by the goodness He expresses to us; Rom. 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?”

1. The “goodness of God” refers the favors and expressions of love to us. This goodness does not miraculously lead, but when duly considered will influence us to repent.
2. Repentance is the mental determination to forsake sin and turn to God, embracing His way. Repentance is used here to include all that God required of man to receive grace and pardon.
3. We may think of repentance as a destination with a road approaching it. God’s acts of goodness become directional signs urging us to repent.

I. The Natural World Is The Result Of God’s Goodness.

A. One cannot admire the beauty, design, and consistency of natural laws on earth and in the universe without standing in awe of the Designer.
   1. Psa. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
   2. Rom. 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”
   3. Heb. 3:4 “For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.”

B. God is the giver of all good.
   1. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
   2. These natural blessings make sober-minded people want to serve the source.

C. Not only in the natural blessings is God’s goodness seen but more so in the spiritual realm is this seen.

II. The Gift Of Christ Is The Goodness Of God.

A. God did not send something of no value:
   1. He did not send some dispensable angel.
   2. He did not send something from an obscure corner of heaven.

B. God sent the best He had.
   1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   2. Rom. 8:32 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”
   3. 1 John 4:9 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”
   4. “Only begotten”
      a. From the Greek μονογενής (monogenes).
b. It is a term of deepest affection and shows the only one of its kind or unique.

C. God’s gift of Christ is the greatest demonstration of God’s goodness and it continues to persuade right-thinking people to repent.

III. THE LONG-SUFFERING OF GOD EXPRESSES GOD’S GOODNESS.

A. In the scales of eternal justice, sin will be weighed in the balances and found wanting.
   1. Sin demands punishment.
   2. Hab. 1:13 "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"
   3. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
   4. Jam. 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

B. Because of God’s goodness, God delays execution of judgment, giving man time and opportunity to repent.
   1. 2 Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
   2. Rom. 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?"

IV. THE GOSPEL IS THE PRODUCT OF GOD’S GOODNESS

A. The Gospel is the comprehensive gift.
   1. In the Gospel are revealed all of the other gifts of God’s goodness.
   2. It brings to our attention all of the riches of God’s goodness.

B. The Gospel is the instrument of man’s redemption.
   1. Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
   2. 1 Cor. 1:24 "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."
   3. It is through obedience of its truth that we are saved.
      a. 1 Pet. 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"
      b. Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

Conclusion: Truly God must be amazed at our continued impenitence.