Nov. 3, 2002 Northwest Bible Church

**Rom. 2:4-5**

*Despising His Kindness*

INTRO

 I. Justification (chs. 1-8).

 II. Vindication (chs. 9-11).

 III. Exhortation (chs. 12-16).

 HARMARTIOLOGY = the study of sin. Paul in 2:1f. is building his case against these moralists. They are guilty of sin and without excuse because:

 1) they are hypocritical judges (vv. 1-3)

 2) they despise God’s kindness (v. 4)

 3) they are storing up wrath because they are stubborn and unrepentant (v. 5)

**I. GOD’S KINDNESS TO THE LOST.**

 Note: “riches of” , not in meager supplies.

 A. Kindness – to provide something beneficial for someone. God’s common grace is in view here. Mt. 5:45; Lk. 6:35; Acts 14:17.

 B. Tolerance – to withhold judgment, a kind of temporary divine truce.

 C. Patience - longsuffering with man’s sinfulness.

**II. THE GOAL IS REPENTANCE.**

 A. The purpose of God’s patience and kindness is to give time for repentance. But unbelievers misunderstand God’s kindness. See Ps. 10; 73:3-11.

 B. Note the word “lead.” God leads the sinner gently, he does not treat them like beasts that must be driven with whips and rods. God leads them like a shepherd but the problem is that they simply will not follow.

**III. IT IS A GREAT SIN TO DESPISE GOD’S KINDNESS.**

 A. They “think lightly” of the riches of His benefits (v. 4).

 *“Think lightly” -* to feel contempt for someone or something because it is thought to be bad or without value — ‘to despise, to scorn, to look down on.’

 B. They are stubborn and unrepentant (v. 5).

 C. God’s response is to store up wrath for them on the day of judgment (v. 5).

**IV. A GODLY RESPONSE TO GOD’S KINDNESS.**

 A. All Christians should not but do continue to sin.

 B. God can justly discipline us and even take us home.

 C. God’s kindness should cause Christians to be continually repenting.