

## *The Kindness of God*

Peter Nieman Martin, Sr.  
May 31, 2014

*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.<sup>2</sup> Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.<sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? <sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:1-4, New International Version).*

The power of the Apostle Paul's words reaches out and grabs you in these four verses. They make you sit down and take notice of your actions. If that were not enough, they transport you to Matthew 7:1-5, where you are confronted with the words of the Lord regarding judging others. All in all, we find this to be a matter of spiritual reality which cannot be ignored because at every instance of the personal judgment of others, we are forced to look into a mirror reflecting ourselves in the light of truth. Here, then is the chance to remove the "beam from our eye" before attempting to "remove the beam from our brother's eye." Having said these things, I wish to make my focus the fourth verse—the goodness of God.

Paul asks, "*Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*" I think that we should consider the word **contempt** before moving forward in this study. Dictionary.com defines it in the following manner: the feeling with [which](#) a person regards anything considered [mean](#), vile, or worthless; disdain; scorn. **Mean**, in this case, is defined as inferior in grade, quality, or character. Paul asks if the Romans felt this way about the riches of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience. The Amplified Version of Romans 2:4 puts it this way:

*<sup>4</sup> Or are you [so blind as to] trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repent (<sup>a</sup>to change your mind and inner man to accept God's will)?*

Have we ever stopped to think about the kindness of God? I mean really stopped to give deep consideration to this point! How we take the kindness of God for granted! We do not fully realize how much God detests sin. We cannot imagine how greatly Jesus had to suffer for our redemption. How greatly the Spirit of God stirs in us to turn from sin, to quench the fires that light up our lusts, and to beckon us to leave our old ways and flee to God. Today, while it is called today, do not harden your hearts. I leave you with the words of David.

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*

*<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; <sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. <sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.*

*<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*

