

## THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION

- I. The Bible reminds us of 2 features of God: His goodness and severity. Ro.11:22A
  - A. The context of the entire chapter of Rom. 11 is one which emphasizes God's "goodness" in admitting the Gentiles into His fellowship, but also His "severity" in cutting off Israel as His "chosen nation" because they rejected Him.
    1. God's severity is seen in cutting off the Jews from His special blessings they had long enjoyed. Mt.21:43
    2. God's goodness is seen in admitting the Gentiles into His kingdom, **and** re-admitting the Jews into the kingdom on an individual basis rather than a national basis.
  - B. Paul says all this as a **warning** to the Gentiles that they too can be cut off if they disobey and will be dealt with severely, and this is a warning to **us**.
- II. Now let's look at the goodness and severity of God through the ages, as they pertain to us. Ro.15:4

### DISCUSSION

#### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, let's consider the GOODNESS OF GOD.

- A. Let's consider His "goodness" from the Old Testament record.
  1. God was good to Adam and Eve in giving them a wonderful home in the garden of Eden, with all good things to enjoy.
  2. God was good to Noah and his family by saving them from the flood in the ark. Gen.6:14,22
  3. God was good to Moses in providentially allowing him to be spared from the wrath of Pharaoh and even bringing him upon Mt. Sinai to receive the law.
  4. God was good to Israel in bringing them out of Egyptian bondage and being with them through the Ark of the Covenant in the tabernacle.
- B. Now, there are many ways God's "goodness" is shown to us in the gospel age.
  1. God, out of His love, has provided for us a Savior. Jn.3:16; Ro.5:8; 2Co.9:15
  2. God has been good to us in giving us the Bible, that we might **know** how to enjoy His goodness.
  3. God has been good to us in giving us the church to enjoy fellowship with Him and with one another. Ac.2:47; 1Jn.1:7
  4. God has been good to us in telling us what to do to be saved from damnation. Mk.16:16; Ac.2:36-38
  5. God has been good to us in giving us the promise and hope of eternal life in heaven. Tit.1:2

#### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, let's consider the SEVERITY OF GOD.

- A. Let's look at the examples of those who enjoyed God's goodness in times past.
  1. To Adam and Eve, God also warned them and punished them when they disobeyed Him. Gen.2:16f; 3:23f; 5:5
  2. In Noah's day, God was good to Noah, but severe to the rest of the world which rejected His warning. Gen.6:1-7,8; 2Pe.2:4
  3. God was severe with the Israelites, and would not allow the disobedient ones to enter into the land of Canaan.
  4. God was severe with Moses in not allowing him to enter Canaan because of his disobedience. Num.20:1-11,12; cf Deut.34:4-7
  5. God was severe about the tabernacle, in that anyone who unlawfully touched the ark of the covenant would die. Num.4:15; 2Sa.6:6f

- B. There are other matters about which God will show severity.
  - 1. He will be severe with those who change the teachings of the written word. 2Jn.9; Rev.22:18f
  - 2. God will punish those who openly or privately teach false doctrine that will damn the souls of the hearers. Mt.7:15; 2Pe.2:1; 3:16; Isa.8:20
  - 3. God will be severe with those who are trying to change the church into an organization of man. Mt.15:13,14
- C. God warns us that even though He loves us and has been good to us and wants us to be saved, He **will** be severe with us if we disobey Him. 2Pe.3:9; Ro.2:2-5; 2Thes.1:6-9
  - 1. To refuse to obey the gospel will bring damnation. Mk.16:15f
  - 2. To fail to be faithful will bring the severe punishment of eternal death. He.2:1-3; 10:26-29; 12:25
  - 3. To allow the pleasures of material things to keep us out of heaven is worse than never having them. Mt.16:24-26

**CONCLUSION**

- I. "Behold, the goodness and severity of God."
  - A. God is good in giving you another opportunity to become a Christian.
  - B. Don't lose out on the greatest of ALL of God's blessings—heaven itself—for a few paltry crumbs that fall from the table of life.
- II. Come and enjoy a feast with God and His family.