

Let Us Continue in God's Goodness
(Romans 11:22)

Introduction:

1. This morning we studied passages that relate to "goodness" [the 6th of 9 characteristics that make up the fruit of the Spirit -- Galatians 5:22-23].
2. This evening we are turning our attention to God's goodness.
3. In Romans 11:22 we are told to behold God's goodness and His severity.
4. God has demonstrated His severity many times toward those who fell.
 - a. He will also demonstrate His severity toward those who do not continue in His goodness.
 - b. We learn from Hebrews 10:31 that *"it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*
5. To receive God's goodness we must *"continue in His goodness."*
6. To help us continue in God's goodness, we are studying the instructions found in 1 Peter 3:8-12.
7. As a result of our study I hope we will adopt this philosophy: "Let us continue in God's goodness."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.8-11) INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO GOD'S GOODNESS
 - A. Vs.8
 1. "Finally" indicates that this information is a summary statement.
 - a. Instructions have just been given to servants, wives, and husbands.
 - b. Beginning at vs.8, some important instructions are given to all Christians.
 2. God wants Christians to:
 - a. "be all of one mind" [harmonious -- Philippians 2:2]
 - b. "have compassion one of another" [sympathetic -- Romans 12:15]
 - c. "love as brethren" (Romans 12:10a)
 - d. "be pitiful" [tenderhearted -- Ephesians 4:32]
 - e. "be courteous" [humble -- Philippians 2:3-4].
 - B. (vs.9) God wants Christians to avoid retaliation [taking vengeance personally -- Romans 12:14, 17a].
 1. Christ is our example (1 Peter 2:21, 23).
 2. (1 Peter 3:9b) We are shown why retaliation must be avoided.
 - C. (vs.10) God wants Christians to avoid sinning with the tongue.
 1. Evil speaking is mentioned (see 2:1).
 2. Guile is also mentioned (see 2:21-22).
 - D. (vs.11) God wants Christians to:
 1. turn away from evil and do good (Romans 12:9b)
 2. seek peace and pursue it (Romans 12:18).
- II. (vs.12) WHY WE MUST FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS
 - A. Following these instructions will help us to be righteous.
 - B. Those who are righteous enjoy great blessings.
 1. The Lord's eyes are over the righteous.
 2. The Lord hears the prayers of the righteous.
 - C. Those who do evil are not righteous -- the Lord's face is against them.

Conclusion:

1. In Romans 11:22 we are taught to continue in God's goodness and why we must do so.
2. In 1 Peter 3:8-12 we are taught how to continue in God's goodness and why we must do so.
3. "Let us continue in God's goodness."