

A Warped Perspective – Part Two

"Or do you presume upon the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" Romans 2:4

People richly endowed by God tend to congratulate themselves on their fortuitous circumstances rather than understanding that God gave them all they have and will hold them accountable for how they steward His assets. Also, people tend to lack a biblical understanding regarding why God has been good to them.

When Jesus upbraided the towns surrounding the Sea of Galilee, He said, "...if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."¹ It seems that these people failed to perceive God's purpose in blessing them. To the degree that they saw Jesus' miracles as a work of God, they concluded it was because they were special in the economy of God instead of understanding that God's objective was to bring them to repentance and mold them into His obedient servants.

All God brings into my life is meant to accomplish this same objective: He expects me to be grateful. If I perceive that it is blessing, I am to be humble and grateful for His gracious involvement in my life; if I perceive that it is painful, I am to be humble and grateful, knowing that "...the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."² Discipline and chastisement are not just for those who err; God also uses them to strengthen and perfect those He loves.

¹ Matthew 11:21 ² Hebrews 12:6