

# ***Personal / Small Group Sermon Study***

## **The Lord is Slow to Anger and Abounding in Love**

**Week of February 25, 2018 A.D.**

While Jesus was dying on the cross, God laid upon Jesus the punishment for the sins of every person who has ever been alive on planet earth. When you accept the substitutionary death of Jesus as payment for your sin debt in full, God will never be angry with you. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

### **Read Psalm 103:8**

Compassion means "a deep awareness of the suffering of another accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering."

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "All suffering in the world is the result of either the general sin of all mankind and/or the specific sin of one or more persons. Therefore, suffering will remain in the world of human existence until God creates the new heaven and the new earth where righteousness dwells."

### **Read 2 Peter 3:7-10, 13**

2. Will all "ungodly men" eventually be judged and destroyed by God? Why does God continue to wait for His judgment of "ungodly men" to take place? Would life on this planet have any meaning, purpose, or value if God did not make provision for mankind to be able to live with God forever in a new heaven and a new earth? Please explain your answers.
3. Read verse 9 again. Does the typical person understand what is meant by: (a) sin; (b) salvation; (c) repentance; (d) righteousness; and, (e) God's judgment? If not, why not? Please state your understanding of the meaning of each of these words.

### **Read John 15:18 – 19 & Matthew 12:30**

4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The world hates Jesus. When you become a Christian, you will be hated by the world."

### **Read Matthew 5:11 – 12**

5. Have you ever been persecuted because of your allegiance to Jesus? If so, why and how? If not, why not?
6. Does God's compassionate and gracious attitude toward sinners almost guarantee that Christians will suffer while they are alive in this world? Please explain your answer.

### **Read 1 John 2:1 – 2 and the footnote c thereto**

7. Is God angry with Christians? Is God angry with non-Christians? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Isaiah 53:4 – 6 and Mark 15:33 – 34**

8. Can a holy and righteous God remain holy and righteous if He allows sin to go unpunished? Was Jesus a sinner? For whose sin was Jesus punished? If Jesus suffered the “punishment that brought us peace” (v. 5) and if “the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (v. 6), can God ever be angry with (or punish) us because of our sin? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Psalm 103:9 – 12**

9. Does God ever “accuse” a Christian? Does God ever “harbor his anger” against a Christian? Has God “removed our transgressions from us” who are Christians? Should a Christian ever fear punishment from God? Does God expect every Christian to live a life of (a) freedom, (b) joy, and (c) faithfulness to Christ? Please explain your answers.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and Psalm 103:6**

10. Is the entire world under the oppression of Satan? (see 1 John 5:18-19) Has Jesus freed all of the world from Satan’s oppression? If so, why are people oppressed? If not, did both God and Jesus make a mistake on the cross? Please explain your answers.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 15**

11. Does God expect and enable each Christian to live his or her life for the sole purpose of pleasing Jesus and with total disregard for his or her personal goals and desires? Please explain your answer.
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “God loves everybody. God wants everybody to live in heaven with God forever. God allows Christians to remain on earth so that they will explain to non-Christians the way to avoid the punishment of hell and how to receive eternal life.”

**Consider:** Have you personally experienced the reality of Psalm 103:8? If not, why not? If so, as an ambassador for Christ, you have been chosen to endure whatever hardship you might face in this world while God uses you to invite non-believers to receive His compassion and grace through faith in Christ. “You think about that!” Amen.