

## Romans: Verse-by-Verse

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Romans 2:4-5 A

- **Continuing a Theme (vv. 4-5):** The broad point: Humans are not accurate judges of other humans, but there is a Judge who is perfectly able to render accurate judgment.
- God judges humans on the basis of their knowledge ... truth... guilt ... deeds... and motives. God judges humans with impartiality.
- **Today: God Judges Humans On The Basis Of Their Guilt.**

Verses 4-5: God applied the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience throughout history for one specific purpose: to lead us to repentance. However, the intention was not met with favor: Because of the hardness of human hearts, God's kindness was rejected.

v. 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

- **Showing Contempt: v. 4**

"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience..."

A strong Greek phrase used for "contempt" -- it means to seriously underestimate the value of something or the significance of something. That's what Paul is saying about the moralizers and his own people, the Jews:

"God treated you with kindness. He treated you with tolerance. He treated you with patience. But you grossly undervalued those things. See: Psalm 36; Daniel 9:9; Psalm 119:90; Nehemiah 9:20:

- **"Common Grace":** the phrase used to describe God's universal goodness to all humans. Two of the most prominent features of Common Grace are these:

1. "Common Grace" restrains sin and the effects of sin on the human race. 2. "Common Grace" is what keeps humanity from descending into the morass of evil that we would see if the full expression of our fallen nature were allowed to have free reign.

Are humans are basically good?" No! The Scriptures makes it clear that sin has corrupted human nature: See: Romans 3:10; Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:1; Titus 3:3;

Romans 3:23.

### **The Benefits of “Common Grace”:**

1. “Common Grace” is all that restrains the full expression of human sinfulness. God has given every person a conscience. To some degree the conscience places moral constraints on evil behavior.

2. God restricts total evil is by maintaining order in human society through government. Romans 13:1: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

3. “Common Grace” enables us to admire beauty and goodness.

Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

Through “Common Grace” God imparts numerous advantages, blessings, and tokens of His kindness on both the righteous and the unrighteous. See: Acts 17:28; Matthew 5:44-45

- **Important Greek Words in verses 4-5:**

So Paul asks the question, “Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s **kindness** leads you toward repentance?”

- **“Kindness”**: chrēstotēs. It’s translated kindness in Galatians 5 in the list of elements of the fruit of the Spirit. It speaks of God’s benefits, His kindnesses to men.

- **“Tolerance”** or “forbearance”: “anochē”. In the Greek it actually means a “truce” – the cessation of hostility. See: Genesis 6:13 “Anoche” is also the word for the withholding of judgment. God is holding back His judgment while simultaneously releasing His blessings.

- **“Patience”**: “makrothumia”. It means far more than simple patience. It speaks to someone who has the power to avenge a wrong, but doesn’t do it. Examples of “Patience” in Scriptures: Exodus 34:6; Jonah 4:2; I Peter 3:20.

At this moment all of these things are working in humankind’s favor: God’s riches of his kindness, God’s tolerance, and God’s patience. But it won’t last forever.

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.  
-- 2 Peter 3:8-10