

Scripture: Exodus 20 & Matthew 21:33-46 #16 Series: *Knowing God*
Singing: 399:1, 3 – 123:1 -- 64:1-3 – 383:1-3 – 362:1-3

A. What made Job feel so ashamed and vile? (Job 40:3-5; 42:1-6)

- God is not just *pre-eminent* but *transcendent*
- Owen: *We may speak much of God; talk of Him; His ways, His works, He counsels, all day long. But the truth is, we know very little of Him. Our thoughts, our meditations, our expressions of Him are low, many of them unworthy of His glory and none of them reaching perfection*

The Excellency of God's Patience (2)

I. The glory of this attribute II. The revelation of this attribute

I. The Glory of God's patience (review)

A. God's patience is not just His enduring (long-suffering) of offences

1. It is His power over Himself: see Nahum 1:2-7
 - a. never think of God's patience with sin and sinners as 'softness'

b. His power revealed in His patience now is greater than in the final display of His eternal wrath in hell. (Charnock)

II. The Revelation (or exercise) of God's patience

A. Who are receiving the blessing of God's patience?

1. Are animals and plants? Stars and planets? Good angels? Bad angels?
2. We *sinner*s are the only creatures Who benefit from God's patience!

B. Ponder *how patient* God is with us who live unrepentant/unbelieving!

1. God is provoked by every person on this planet: Gen. 6:5
 - a. When do we feel our patience wear thin?

b. What is God enduring all day and night?

2. God is not simply enduring what we are called to endure

- a. He is assaulted or touched in His very Being by each sin

b. Every sin is personally against God

c. No sin is more offensive than unbelief of the Gospel: 1 John 5:10

- compare with Matthew 21:33-46

d. Though He showed no patience to fallen angels (2 Peter 2:4), He does show *transcendent patience (of infinite dimensions!)* to us

- 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness: but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

- Revelation 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.*

C. God's patience is also exercised to His own saints

Living these truths ...

A. Worship the Lord for the excellency of His longsuffering

B. Hasten to seek His salvation: *His long-suffering is not always-suffering*

C. Seek grace to reflect His glory: Romans 15:5-6; Col. 2:12-13

Romans 15:5-6 *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Col: 2:12-13 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*