The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 12 **October 25, 2026** **No. 43**

WHAT GOD SEES

The Longsuffering Of The Lord

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God has incredible attributes that leave me singing, "Our God is an awesome God," followed by, "How great Thou art," followed by, "To God be the glory, great things He has done." Every quality of God leaves me humbled beyond description.

For instance, trying to define His love leads me to sing, "Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made, were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, though' stretched from sky to sky."

Every character trait leaves all who meditate on our God breathlessly awe-struck. From His amazing grace, to His rich mercy, to His immutability, to His all-things-are-possible omni-ness (omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence). We simply run out of words to describe Who God is.

What led me to write this article came when I fell into a melancholy sadness over the evil I have seen in my little corner of the world. Marriages falling apart. Children separated from parents. Pornography addicting and ruining young people. The struggle of parents dealing with children with diseases that will take their lives. Families broken by sinful children. On and on, it seemed the shoe kept dropping day by day. It was almost more than a man can bear.

Then I looked upward to heaven and said, "God, can't You see these terrible things in the world?" That's when a verse I memorized as a child came flooding into my soul. "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*."

That verse caused me to do what the Psalmist did in Psalm 73. After his depression of seeing the wicked prosper, causing his feet to nearly slip, he suddenly "*went into the sanctuary of God*" and saw things from heaven's perspective (Psalm 73:17). What Asaph and Peter saw, and what Solomon reminded us, is: "*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good*." - Proverbs 15:3

That staggers my mind. God sees all the evil in this world, but is still longsuffering. God's patience brings me to a greater understanding of Who my heavenly Father really is. It widens the chasm between God and man to Grand Canyon proportions!

Let's consider God's long-suffering versus my short-suffering.

I see death up close every once in a while. At most, I attend a few funerals per year. According to the statistics I researched, God sees death over 60,000,000 times a year, or roughly 164,385 spirits returning to Him every day! The grief of Mary and Martha at Lazarus' tomb is multiplied tens of thousands of times every 24 hours!

I never see, but often hear, of the reported 443,000 rapes each year. That's 1,214 every day! Only a very small number of rapes are ever reported; thus, God sees many times that horrible and violent sin daily. That's only in America. Imagine the number around the world! The rape of Dinah by Shechem (Genesis 34), of Tamar by Amnon (2 Samuel 13), and of that horrifying incident

of the Levite's concubine (Judges 19), are seen by the eyes of God thousands of times each and every day! We want revenge, today!

I hear of the 458,000 murders committed each year in America, approximately 1,255 every 24 hours. The world's homicide rate is massively larger than that. Cain killing Abel (Genesis 4), David killing Uriah (2 Samuel 11), Jezebel killing Naboth (1 Kings 21), are but a few of the many murders in the Bible that God condemned. Today, God sees assassinations, terrorist attacks, parents murdering their children, and so many other crimes against humanity. Like Habakkuk (1:2), we ask, "*Lord, how long*?"

I cry when I hear of a broken marriage ending in divorce. But God hears judges decree, "divorce granted," 670,000 times every year. That is 1,835 times a day, and that's just America. Worldwide, that number is staggering. "*God hates divorce*" (Malachi 2:16), and the dysfunction that follows. Yet He patiently waits to bring divine judgment. Why?

Sex trafficking has reached epidemic proportions. As I write, there are 6,300,000 souls trapped in forced sexual exploitation around the world! Defenseless girls and children make up the vast majority of this depraved evil. God sits in heaven and sees in graphic and disgusting detail every one of them, and yet waits. I scream, "Do something Lord!"

The rise of homosexuality and transgenderism is in the news, and in our face, every day. God calls it an abomination, and views from heaven every act of this depravity which caused Him to rain fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). Why then, and not now?

Then there is fornication and adultery. There are no statistics for this sinful behavior, for it happens globally millions of times a day. Our holy God, far from being detached from this "*sin against the body*" (1 Corinthians 6:18), declares this a work of the flesh, warning man that such sinners will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (Galatians 5). Why not now?

I meditate on what God must see every second of every day and think, "Dear Father, how on earth can you endure this from heaven?" How can He be so longsuffering with this broken, sin-cursed world? You and I, from our limited sense of justice, would have long ago called down 12 legions of angels and ended this madness (Matthew 26:53). I, for one, would have invoked the judgment of the grapes of wrath (Revelation 14:14-20). Surely, the earth is ripe for God's sickle. But God sees otherwise.

We remember the days of Noah. "*God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*," causing Him to be sorry He had made man (Genesis 6:5-6). Yet, amazingly, He lingered another century before sending the flood, saying, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years" (Genesis 6:3).

We remember in Paul's day how God viewed the evil world and "*gave them up*" and "*gave them over*" to their depravity (Romans 1:18-32). Yet, He did not destroy them. Surely, God's longsuffering is far beyond my sense of righteous justice.

Here is the answer to our questions.

God says we live in "*this present evil age*" (Galatians 1:14). We are told to "*redeem the time, for the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:16). Our hearts cry out for justice... now! But God's heart waits for one more sinner to repent. Like in every age, God continues to be "*longsuffering, not willing that any perish, but all come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). God continues to want "*all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4). While we ask, "What are you waiting for?" God answers, "One more soul."

So, as this soul-searching God lingers, He asks, "Who will go for us?" Like Isaiah, we forgiven sinners respond to this merciful God, "*Here am I, send me*" (Isaiah 6:8). While we cry "Maranatha" (i.e. "Hasten to come, Lord"), our patient God says, "One more soul."

Could it be, God is waiting on you? via Rick's Email: October 21, 2026