

Thursday

Patience in Well-Doing

Today's Scripture Romans 2:6-10

When Peter, in 2 Peter 3:16-17, says that the Apostle Paul wrote some things that are hard to understand, he was probably talking about Romans. Much of Romans 2 must be read and reread. Certainly much of it pertained to the Jewish believers at Rome but many of the things of which Paul writes are meaningful and important for us. Consider our text in Romans 2:6-10.

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.” (Romans 2:6-10)

If I am being open and honest, I sometimes get weary of always, in every single circumstance, trying to seek God's will above my own. My experience tells me that I am not alone and that you are like me in this regard. Always humble, always serving, always seeking the needs of others above your own is not easy but it is right. I do not mean acting in a codependent way that is unhealthy, but in a spiritual way this is unselfish and humble. Paul speaks of those “who by patience in well-doing....he will give eternal life.” On the other hand, the “self-seeking” and disobedient will feel God's “wrath and fury.”

God promises good things to those who are patient in well-doing. In Galatians 5, Paul gives credit to the Holy Spirit for producing fruit in us that is extraordinary. Doing the right things that bring glory and honor to God and that demonstrate love for other people is not always easy, and often requires sacrifice, but it is worth it.

Today, I will...ask God to help me to be patient in well-doing.