

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

If you are not repenting of your sins, then you don't know God or His goodness. I like the way the NLT puts today's verse.

† **Romans 2:4 (NLT2)** *Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

Did you catch the last sentence: *"Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?"* Yet how many people see God as ready to pounce on them like some type of judge and jury, quick to sentence them to hell for their sins. But scripture does not support that at all as we just read that God is full of *"goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering"* which is a love that the world does not know or understand, because they are so used the world's ways and the way it treats them. They are not used to having or knowing God as Someone who actually loves them and cares about them and is quick to forgive them, it's simply beyond their comprehension.

† **Psalm 86:5** *For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.*

Think of how our parents brought us up. When we were kids, we thought that all our parents wanted to do was give us a bunch of rules and we couldn't wait to get out of there, because we thought we knew so much better than our parents did. But now that we are older, we take those things that our parents have taught us to heart as we know that they were actually good things and that they were trying to teach us.

Even little kids think that their parent's don't know better and they want to eat ice cream and cake and candy all day, because they think that's what's best for them, yet the parent knows so much better than a child does. If earthly parents know better, don't you think that our Heavenly Father, God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth knows better than we do? So the things He actually stops from happening in our lives or those things He stops us from getting are not because He is mad at us or hates us or doesn't know any better, but rather it's *"that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin."*

God is not a kill joy nor does He want to punish us all the time, but He is protecting us from ourselves and our bad choices. He knows that eye candy, so to speak, that you think is best for you is really bad for you, and some of it may even look great, but God knows it's so bad that it could actually kill you, spiritually or even physically.

So, my opening statement was, *“If you are not repenting of your sins, then you don’t know God or His goodness.”*

Now that you know the truth shouldn’t you change it to now say that: *“I am repenting of my sins, because I know God and His goodness.”*

† **Jeremiah 31:34** *No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*