

Romans: The Integrity of God
The Impossible Possibility
“Earning God’s Favor by My Activity”
Romans 2:12-16

“The doers of the law (not the hearers) shall be justified,” Paul says. It is important to note that if a person obeys fully the law of God (i.e., *“patient continuance in well-doing”* v.7), God will render him *“eternal life”* (v.7) or consider him *“justified”* (v.13). However, the obedience must be perfect by being consistent, pure, pervasive (thought and deed) and to glorify God. That is why my righteousness apart from the law is impossible! *“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). The idea of earning God’s favor by my behavior is very dangerous.

I. Professing love for “God’s law” does not make you holy (v.12, 13).

“God’s law” could be considered “His Word.” Jews had His word, the Gentiles did not. The Jews, as a result of this special revelation from God called *the law*, believed themselves to be better than the pagans (Gentiles). Paul, however, sets them straight!

(A). God is impartial in His judgment.

“There is no respect of persons with God” (v.11). Those who have sinned not having the word of God will perish just as those who have known the law!

(B). God is impeccable in His holiness.

Fellowship with God requires absolute perfection. *“Be ye holy, as I am holy,”* says the Lord (I Peter 1:16). You may say you “love” the word --- do you do it?

II. Performing the letter of “God’s law” does not make you holy (v.14,15).

Whatever law you have --- the Word, the heart, conscience or some other law, you may try as hard as you can to meet that law to “be holy,” and you will fail miserably.

(A). The law is a standard of “thou shalt” or “thou shalt not.”

God’s law (His word), our law (conscience and heart), man’s law (government), and the church’s law (don’t play cards, go to movies, etc . . .) sometimes vary.

We would all agree that God’s law is supreme. What is it? **(Matthew 22:35-40).**

(B). The law of loving God and neighbor demands absolute perfection.

If you loved God with all your heart and soul you would not need a Savior. People will often place themselves under the OBLIGATION to love God, and they will define their love for God by what they do and don’t do. As a result:
(1). They will often **accuse** others of NOT loving God --- not fulfilling the law.
(2). They will **excuse** themselves by manipulating the law --- for their good.

III. Placing your trust in the LORD who fulfills the law makes you holy (v.16).

There will come a day when the secrets of unregenerate sinners will be revealed. God will judge a sinner by a standard He has established --- by His Son Jesus Christ.

(A). How does your holiness compare to His? Do you have any apart from Him?

(B). Have you overcome any sin, done any good, or grown in holiness? Why?

“The practice and manner of life which Scripture calls holiness, righteousness or godliness is NOT obtained by our most resolved endeavors, but is given through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue” **James Hervey.**