

Romans: The Integrity of God
Giving It Your Best Shot
Why Nobody Can Measure Up
Romans 2:5-11

When I was young one of my Sunday School teachers asked me to punch him in the stomach as hard as I could; he wanted to prove how strong his stomach muscles were. *"Give it your best shot!"* he said. I did. He didn't flinch. Some try very hard to get God to approve of them by their works. God never flinches. He requires a righteousness that is perfect, and not one of us has it.

I. Our attitude toward God leads to judgment (v.5).

Paul terms it *"thy hardness and impenitent heart."* This is clear language describing the inside of every person --- religious or not. We, by nature, hate God --- and even when He is good to us, we "despise" His goodness by continuing in our sin.

(A). This hardness leads to a treasure --- a storehouse of "wrath."

Your independence from your Creator is storing up for yourself His judgment.

(B). Some have more treasure than others --- in other words, the wrath and judgment of God is proportional to the hardness of one's heart in resisting the truth.

II. Our actions, independent of God, demand judgment (vs. 6,8,9).

"Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (v.6).

Three words describe the person who will be disapproved of by God.

(A). **Contentious** --- rebellious toward authority, particularly God's authority.

(B). **Antagonistic** --- *"do not obey the truth"* or *"at war with truth"* (Job 24:13).

(C). **Enslaved** --- *"to unrighteousness."* This is how many hardhearted people act.

III. Our accomplishments in the name of God end in judgment (vs. 7,8,10).

"Wait just a minute!" I hear you say. *"I don't deserve wrath. I'm a servant of God."*

All right, let us ask the question, *"How good of a servant of God are you?"* Do you:

(A). Never turn back in the face of opposition? (*"patient continuance"* v.7).

(B). **Do** what God says ("**good**") **at all times** in thought action or deed? (v.7).

(C). Continually seek God's praise (glory), favor (honor) and presence (immortality)?

There is NOBODY who does this! Not even professing Christians! If you don't reach God's favor by your activity, then the only other option is His judgment and wrath.

IV. Our acceptance before God is due to judgment --- already given by His grace.

This is the wonderful gospel of the Scriptures --- God judges His Son in your place.

In addition, God gives to you the righteousness of His Son (imputed righteousness).

"But now a righteousness of God without the law is made known" (Romans 3:20).

It is a tragedy of enormous proportion to read this text as a description of holiness! These verses should lead us all to an enormous desperation over our condition. We don't need to distinguish between Christian or not! Your righteousness is NEVER to be trusted. You are called by God to trust in Jesus Christ --- for even your holiness.