

Romans 2:6-11

He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

Context

- God's impartiality to all persons.
- Romans 2:6-11 answers the natural question from 2:1-5: What is the standard for judgment?

Truths

- 1) God is impartial – 2:6, 11 *He will render to each one according to his works... ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.*

'Render' – guarantee of justice.

Q: How do you think your life stacks up?

Q: Why do you think that?

- 2) God's judgment is based strictly on works: Jesus' or yours – 2:6-8 *He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.*

What do these verses mean?

- 1) Is Paul is advocating works-based salvation? Is he saying, "Aim for these things and do them and you'll be right with God?"

Romans 3:20a

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight.

Galatians 2:16a

yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Psalms 143:2

Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

- 2) Is Paul giving a hypothetical situation? “If a person were to do these things, then they’d be right with God?”

Q: What is our capacity for good works?

A: Helpful and morally praiseworthy? Yes! Salvific? No.

- 3) Is Paul highlighting *real* obedience produced by God in the life of a genuine Christian? Is he saying, “God must be in control of your life in order for these good works to be in your life?”
- 4) Is Paul illustrating God’s impartiality? Is he saying, “No matter who you are, God renders to every person according to their works?”

Q: If our capacity is lacking, what is the answer?

- a. Moralist: Try harder! – Romans 2:1-5
- b. Maniac: Party hardy! – Romans 1:18-32
- c. Messiah: *Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other* – Isaiah 45:22

- 3) God’s grace is available for both Jew and Gentile – 2:9-10 *There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.*