

**Title: Back At You - Romans 2 1-8**

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**Read:**

<sup>1-2</sup> Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors. But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what you've done. <sup>3-</sup>  
<sup>4</sup>You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change. <sup>5-8</sup>You're not getting by with anything. Every refusal and avoidance of God adds fuel to the fire. The day is coming when it's going to blaze hot and high, God's fiery and righteous judgment. Make no mistake: In the end you get what's coming to you—Real Life for those who work on God's side, but to those who insist on getting their own way and take the path of least resistance, Fire!

**Think:**

There's an old saying that says when you point your finger at someone else then there are three pointing back you. Seems to me God's pretty fair with his Judgement. We can't say I'm Ok because I am a better person than that guy at school who bullies everyone. We can't say I'm Ok compared to that girl at college who gossips about everyone. It's not about what we do compared to what others do, it's about what we do compared to what we are able to do. Another thing that crosses my mind as I think about this passage, is it's not even about how good a Christian we are compared to how we used to be. When we were a kids, we understood what God wanted us to do in a simple way; and Gods pleasure in us was watching us achieve what he wanted in a simple way. Now we are older we understand our relationship in a different way with God. Now God has different expectations of us. I am just grateful that God reveals what he expects of us a little at a time. The good news is, that we do these things because of what Jesus did for us, and it's actually what Jesus did, not we do that earn't us eternal life with God. Phew, thank you God.

**Pray:**

Father thank you that it's not what we do that gets us into Heaven, but Lord please help me make you smile, with my attempts to please you. Amen.

**Action:**

Do you have a plan to make God smile this week. Write down seven things you can do this week to make God smile, and then go for it. Bye.