



How do you measure up?

Today we are going to have a bit of fun but also to be challenge by the reality of who we are in Christ and how do you and I measure up to God standards?

It is always so easy for us to look at someone else, look at our pastor or some leader and judge them our standards or our own measuring stick. The funny thing is that we always think we are better that what we really are and so today I want to take you on a look at yourself and how you and I measure up to God standards.

So I guess right now you might be saying, but Pastor I am okay, I am born again and I am going to heaven and so I am okay, you should be preaching this to the people in Malawi who have never heard of Christ. I am only?

Are you really okay? Are you really sure you are measuring up to God standard? You say but yes!

- I go to church,
- I read my Bible
- I am a good person
- I am because **Romans 8:1** says *"...there is therefore no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus..."*
- I am born again!

Not matter what reason you give for going to heaven or being right with God, let's look how you and I measure up to God's standard? We are going to have some fun so relax and let the fun begin!

The Measuring Line

- Billy Graham
 - My really Bad Guy / Girl
 - Oprah
 - My Pastor
 - My Enemy
 - My Mother in Law
 - My Wife
 - Me!
1. Where do you fit on this line?
 2. Maybe in the centre?
 3. You know someday I am not such a good person, I get angry and I lose my temper and I get mad at everyone. I fail, so I am less than good!
 4. But I am better than My really Bad Guy / Girl, I am better than my enemy, I am better than Oprah, but I am not as good as Billy Graham and not as good as my pastor or my wife. So maybe I should go here!
 5. But there have been times in my life that I was really bad and not so good as people think I am.
 6. So I guess I fit just after Oprah and just before my wife and Pastor and Billy Graham!

The truth is that God does not use this standard to measure how good or bad we are. He uses a different



standard to us. And as I said before we all think we are better than what we really are. You and I all have one major flaw, we look at other and judge them harshly but when we look out ourselves we tend to not see our faults because we have blinkers on!

So today I am going to take the blinkers off your eyes and show you how God sees you and I and hopefully for the first time you will take stock of your Christian life.

God's Standard

So let you and I look at how we measure up to God's standard? The 10 commandments!

Note these are not the 10 suggestions but the 10 Commandments of God, so how do you and I shape up to them?

Missing God's mark

10/0 – sadly the people who call themselves Christians, the ones going to church everyday do not measure to the standards that God set.

The definition of sin according to the Bible, means missing the mark! It is like you are shooting a bow and arrow and you aim for the target, the bull and you shoot and miss the bull, you are missing the mark.

Sin is missing the standard of mark set by God and that mark is perfection! Anything less than perfection is a sin. Missing God's calling is sin. Not doing what you know is right is sin!

Romans 3:23 says that, *"²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

We all have missed God mark, you, me and everyone in this room and the whole world have sinned. We are sinners by nature. You do not have to be taught to sin, it comes naturally. No one ever taught you to lie, but you lie. Not taught you to steal, yet we all stole some time in our lives.

Man is by nature a sinner and that is why we need a Saviour!

Romans 6:23 says that, *"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The payment, the salary for your and my sin is death! Our salary for sinning is death!

James 4:17 says that *¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*

So if you know what is the right thing to do and you do not do it, for you it is a sin!

What makes this so serious is that missing God standard does not mean a little punishment or some discipline, missing God's mark is SIN and sin will KILL you. Not measuring up to God standard makes you DEAD!!!!

Closing

In closing I just want you emphasis that there is forgiveness in the blood of Jesus Christ! If you and I decide in our own heart to confess our sins and repent, turn away from our sins. If we choose to turn our backs on our past and we look towards Jesus Christ as the source and answer to our sin problem, we will be saved.



1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Stop trying to earn your salvation because the Bible says that there is no other way to God than Jesus Christ
– **John 14:6**

Stop measuring yourself against others, because one day you will stand before God and give an account of yourself, not for others, your own life, you will stand before God and have to explain why you did and said things during your life. Remember this is before God who knows everything you ever did and every motive why you did it, you cannot hide or run away – everything will be laid bare and you will have to answer for it!

Matthews 12:35-37 – *“³⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

And lastly, focus on yourself and run your own race well! STOP!!! Trying to run someone else’s race. You are not that person, you do not have their talent’s and upbringing, you are not that person and can NEVER be that person so run your own race!!!