

# The Severity of God

Romans 11:21-22

Introduction: The Hebrew writer presents an interesting paradox that we all need to consider (Heb. 2:1-3). If everyone received a just punishment for their disobedience, how would anyone make it to heaven? Furthermore, if we neglect God's word that leads to salvation what chance do we have of escaping damnation? *"Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off"* (Rom. 11:22).

I. God has never taken disobedience lightly.

A. Adam and Eve (Gen. 3).

1. Kicked out the first time they sinned.
2. God never let them back into the garden.
3. It didn't seem to matter to God that Satan made them do it.

B. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2).

C. Him who had cursed (Lev. 24:23).

D. Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:6-7).

E. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3-5, 8-10).

II. This is the same God we serve!

A. *"For I am the Lord, I do not change"* (Mal. 3:6).

B. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"* (Heb. 13:8).

III. Is it right for God to punish us so harshly (Rom. 9:14-21)?

A. God does not enjoy punishing the wicked (Ezek. 33:11).

B. God's forgiveness has limits (Isa. 55:7).

IV. Our problem is we don't see our sins as that bad.

A. When we think parents are too severe when they spank their children we don't see sin as being that bad.

B. When we think parents are too severe because a child comes home drunk and the parents kick the child out of the house we don't think sin is that bad.

C. When the church withdraws fellowship from the disobedient and we don't withdraw our fellowship we obviously don't think sin is that bad.

D. When we think it is too severe to tell a couple living in adultery to end their relationship we must not think sin is that bad.

E. When we forsake the assembly, we don't think sin is that bad.

Conclusion: *“Be not highminded, but fear... take heed lest He also spare not thee”* (Rom. 11:20-21; KJV). If we appreciate God’s goodness which provides us a way to escape the punishment we all deserve, why would anyone spurn His word? Forsake your sins and turn to God!