Divine Incentives  
Rom. 2:1-11

Introduction:
A. Why do people wilfully persist in sin?
   2. Why do they wilfully neglect assembly and worship?
   3. Why do they persist in things they know the Bible does not authorize or condone?
   4. Why do they live a daily life that they know to be sinful?
B. The modern answer must be rooted in psychology or sociology.
   1. Spend much time in analyzing a persons psychic.
   2. Try to find some mysterious root cause for misbehavior.
C. I suggest that the incentive to sin is stronger than the incentive not to sin!
   1. The immediate pleasure and temporal advantage is stronger than what Bible teaches.
   2. The lack of faith in the divine incentives is evident.
D. Our text refers to three divine incentives for us to do right -- yet not many really believe them.

Discussion:
I. The Judgement Of God. (v. 2,3).
   A. Do we really believe that we could face judgement at any time?
      1. Death could bring us into judgment at any moment. (Heb. 9:27; Jas. 4:13-17).
   B. Do we bank on his delaying judgment until we are ready? (Matt. 24:24-25:13)
      1. Would one wilfully put off obedience, if he really thought judgment could be today?
      2. Would one wilfully engage in sin, if really thought judgement could come while engaged?
      3. Would one wilfully neglect duty, if thought judgment could be immediate?
II. The Goodness of God. (v. 4, 7).
   A. Do we really believe His past goodness?
      1. His sacrifice for us. (Rom. 5:6-8).
      2. His longsuffering of us.
   B. Do we really believe His promised goodness?
      1. He promises to reward of those who seek him. (Heb. 11:6).
      2. He promises heaven to the faithful. (Rev. 2:10; 21:22-22:5)
III. The Wrath Of God. (v. 5, 8,9; 1:18).
   A. Do we really believe in hell. (Mark 9:42-48; Rev. 14:10-11; 21:8).
   B. Do we really believe in hell for those who obey not gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
   C. Do we really believe in hell for those who persist in sin. (Heb. 10:26-29).
      1. If so, would we not avoid sin?
      2. If so, would we not live better?
      3. If so, would we not be better Christians, husbands, wives, neighbors, etc.?

Conclusion:
A. Let's face it, we do not believe in these divine incentives enough or we would do better.
B. Let's face it, we try to motivate people by every means other than the Lord's incentives.
C. The Lord's incentives are balanced with both goodness and severity -- love and wrath.