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## **Am I Good Enough?**

Recently, as I was flipping through the Cherokee Scout, I spotted pictures of students from a couple of local schools who were being recognized for their perfect attendance. Seeing the proud smiles on the faces of the children made me reflect upon similar recognition that I had received in my early years. When I was in the 7th grade I won the Pinewood Derby competition for Scouting, and was pictured in the Transylvania Times (Brevard) along with my winning car. What a proud moment that was for me. I had put effort into the car, devoted attention to every detail, and it really paid off. It's these types of experiences that enforce within us what we already know - that the best things come to those who strive hard...and to those who achieve. Almost all of us grow up with an "achievement mentality."

Is it surprising, then, that this is the same attitude with which we approach God? We so naturally THINK that He has His list...His standard, and IF we work hard and measure up, then He'll open His arms and He'll receive us. The converse, of course, is that if we have NOT done well in life - drugs, alcohol, sleeping around, or just immoral living, then we are without hope. Why would He receive the likes of us? What a comfort it should be to the sinner's ears, to hear Jesus say, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." All of us stand before God as unworthy - but only some know that they are sinners, in need of a Savior. Is that you? Do you know your deep need? Read Matthew 11:28-30, and turn to Him in faith and repentance.

All this is not to say that it's not a good thing to have perfect attendance, or certainly to work hard and to have results to show from it. It simply means that neither perfect attendance, nor good standing in the community, nor giving to worthy causes, nor any other good work...is going to earn you *anything* in your relationship with God. Jesus is looking for those who know themselves to be sinners - sinners in need of His free gift of grace.