

## **Week 2 - Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Last week we talked about how God created everything. He made the heavens and the earth and everything in them by just speaking. His most unique creation was man. And when He created all of these things, everything was perfect.

God created humans to have a relationship with Him. They were meant to represent God to the rest of creation, and for a while, they did so. But one day, the first man and woman decided they wanted to disobey God. They thought that they knew better and wanted to make themselves to be the ones in control so they would not have to submit to God anymore. They became selfish and when they disobeyed God, everything in the world changed. This disobedience was sin, and sin was a problem.

Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that does not please God. God is perfect and cannot tolerate sin. In fact, God can not be around sin at all, but needs to judge and punish it. And that was as big of a problem for the first ever man and woman as it is for us today, because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23 is very clear; everyone in the world has sinned, and it keeps us from being able to be in the presence of God. Because God is perfect and can't be around sin, we can't have that relationship because sin has built a barrier. And this barrier keeping us from a relationship with God is something that we can not fix or get around. Our sins separate us from God and leave us in a helpless state.

Think about it; have you ever done something wrong? Have you ever lied, disobeyed your parents, or stolen something? There are many different types of sins, but all of these disqualify us from having a relationship with God. It is like we are all stained with a mark that can never come out, and that stain is something that repulses God completely. No matter how many good things we try to do, every single sin breaks the relationship and separates us from our Creator.

From the beginning, we were supposed to be with God. That is how and why He created us, but when that first man and woman decided to disobey God, it changed every other person that would ever live. It caused us all to naturally disobey God and rebel against Him as our master. We all sin and are unable to fulfill the purpose for which He created us. We simply cannot worship God on our own because our sin gets in the way.

Sin is a problem, but God, the Creator of everything, knew that would be so. He knew that our sins would separate us from Him, so He made a plan to create a way to restore the relationship He designed with us. To overcome the barrier of sin that came between us and God, He promised that He would personally be the one who would crush the power of sin and wipe it out forever. He would be the one to come and wash away all our stains of sin that we could not remove. And we'll talk about that more as we continue this season.

Discussion Questions:

- What is sin?
- What does sin do to our relationship with God?
- Who does Romans 3:23 say has sinned against God?