

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

February 4, 2013

Salvation I

(ALL HAVE SINNED)

ROMANS 3:10 NKJV – (10) As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

ROMANS 3:23 NKJV - (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

ISAIAH 53:6 NKJV – (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 JOHN 1:10 NKJV – (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

You may be reasoning, "*Sure I do some bad things but the good things I do outweigh the bad*". Paul would doubtless agree that people can do many things that appear to be morally right. Even the vilest person will occasionally do something commendable. In the present indictment however, Paul is not speaking of specific "righteous" acts or even general patterns of behavior, but of one's general character. Paul's point is that there is not a single person who has ever lived, apart from the sinless God-Man, Jesus Christ, Whose innermost being could be characterized as righteous by God's standard, which is perfection.

God's standard of righteousness for men is the righteousness that He Himself possesses, which was manifested in Christ. This is the idea Jesus sought to convey to His Jewish audience on the "Sermon on the Mount" declaring that, "Therefore you are to be perfect (attain moral maturity, reaching this goal, the standard being our Father), as your heavenly Father *is perfect.*" This perfection is attainable only by God's grace and a personal response of placing one's faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 1:8

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"How else but through a broken heart may Lord Christ enter in?"

