

MISSING GOD'S MARK

Romans 3:23; 6:23

Introduction: Ever shoot a bow and arrow? How about throwing darts? What about aiming a rifle at a target? All of these and others like them are efforts to hit a target and hopefully hit the center. We miss lots of times but sometimes we do hit what we are aiming at. God has a way of life He wants mankind to live and when any of us miss the way God wants He calls it a SIN. The basic meaning of "sin" is to miss the mark. There has been absolutely NOBODY who has ever lived exactly as God has wanted in such a way that he/she never missed God's target at any time. Well, that is except Jesus.

1. Missing God's Mark Always Has Consequences

- A lot of time our missing God's mark in our lives affects our way of living and thus is visible to others but sometimes it affects others as well as ourselves.
- Take a look at Adam. He sinned all by himself but look how it affected all humanity, even us.
- Cain didn't do as God wanted and it cost his brother his life.
- Millions have died through the centuries in wars led by men who lived contrary to God's ways.
- Whenever a pastor fails to do as God requires, he, his family and his church family are affected.
- Even when an individual church member misses God's mark, everyone around that person is affected, family, church family, friends.

2. Sin, Missing God's Mark is Caused by Something Wrong in a Person's Life

- Whenever the same sin keeps on happening, something is terribly wrong in that person's life.
- The same old sin happening indicates that that person is not as near to God as he/she should be.
 - Wonder why not?

3. When God Created, He Gave Total Freedom

- Remember how Satan decided to take God's place? He chose to disobey God.
- How about Adam? He was free to obey or disobey God. He chose to disobey.
- Do any of us ever abuse or misuse our freedoms? We are free to obey God or not to obey God.

4. Why Do We Miss God's Mark So Much?

- God has provided everything we need to be able to "hit God's mark" for our lives.
- We do not have to sin or miss God's mark, but we do! Why?
 - We choose to disobey.
- A lot of the time it is very hard to do what God wants and we:
 - lie to somebody - steal - cheat - gossip, etc.

5. God Knew All Along That Sin Would Come

- Believe it or not, Sin started in Heaven and made it's way to earth.
- When God made man, He gave mankind the freedom to either obey Him or disobey.

6. What Does God Think About Our Sinning?

- Well to sin is to disregard God's right to tell us what to do. It breaks His law and the side effects damages His property.

7. All Sin, Missing God's Mark, is Awful

- It caused some angels to be cast out of Heaven and eventually they will go to Hell.
- It caused Adam to become separated from God and then it caused the whole human race to also be separated from God as well.

8. God Says All Sin is Terrible

- Sin causes the one sinning to become independent upon God.
- It is a deliberate disobedience of God's ways for one's life.

9. Sin, Missing God's Mark, Affects God as Well as the Person Doing it

- Sin is against God personally, as it is directly against His commands.
- Ever bring dishonor upon your parents by your behavior? How did they feel about your actions?

10. What About "Little" Sins? Do They Bother God Also?

- God doesn't call any sin "little" and it must be punished.
- Every single "missing God's mark" will be judged and dealt with seriously.
- The guilty will lose something somewhere, sooner or later before God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Satan said, "***I will...***" and he sinned.
2. We say "***I will...***" and we also sin against God.
3. God does not minimize sin as we do.
 - Living as God wants is not a priority today.
 - Whenever we act like the rest of the world, we miss God's mark for us and we sin.
4. God says sin is trespassing, transgression, evil, defeat, ignorance, lawlessness, disobedience, ungodliness, and unrighteousness, just to mention a few.
5. Our society says sin is an accident, a blunder, chance, defect, error, fascination, luxury, liberty, a trifle, only a mistake, a sign of weakness and is no big thing.
6. No matter what we call it, God says sin is sin? It is missing His mark for us to live by.
7. Each of us is accountable to God for the way we live. Let's live as God wants.