

Falling Short of the Glory of God

Romans 3:23

Falling Short of the Glory of God

- Rom. 3:23 -"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- "You exist, according to the purpose of God, for the praise of His glory."
(Jason Hardin)
- "Christians are God's manifestation of His Deity in this world." (Paul R. Blake)

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- Jesus Christ is, was, and always will be greater than the angels - Heb. 1:1-8
- Jesus Christ became a man that he might be brethren to men - Heb. 2:5-18
- Jesus Christ is, was, and always will be a Son in God's House; the angels will never be more than servants - Heb. 3:1-6

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- We, as the brethren of Jesus Christ, are sons in the house of God, greater than the angels, and we will share in the Son's inheritance
 - Rom. 8:16-18 - "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- When we get to heaven, we will be glorified just as Christ, not the angels. The only thing we lack to be like Him in the present is the incorruptible form that cannot be touched with sin and death
 - 1John 3:1-3 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”
 - 1Cor. 15:42-58

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- In this world as Christians, we share in the Divine Nature (Godhead, Godhood)
 - 2Peter 1:3-4 - “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- In this world as Christians, we are the visible representatives of that Deity
 - 1John 4:17 - “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; *because as He is, so are we in this world.*”

Christians Are God's Manifestation Of His Deity In This World

- As God's manifestation of the Divine Nature in this world, all sin is to be considered beneath our interest and participation
 - Rom. 6:1-18

Then Why Do We Sin?!

- Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Fail in manifesting and attaining the glory of God)
- Ecc. 7:20 - “For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.”
- 2Chron. 6:36 - “for there is no one who does not sin”
- Prov. 20:9 - “Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”
- Rom. 3:9-10 - “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one”
- Gal. 3:22 - “But the Scripture has confined all under sin”

The Greatest Men In The Bible Sinned

- With only one exception, Jesus Christ -
Heb. 4:15; 1Peter 2:22
- Noah became drunk - Gen. 9:20-21
- Abraham lied twice - Gen. 12:10-20, 20:1-18
- Moses disobeyed God - Num. 20: 7-12;
Psalms 106:32-33
- David committed adultery with Bathsheba and
had Uriah killed to cover his sin - 2Sam. 11-12
- Peter denied the Lord and swore a false oath -
Matt. 27:69-75

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How Are We To Use These Paradoxical Truths?

- 1John 4:17 - "...because as He is, so are we in this world."
- Rom. 3:23 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

What Shall We Do With These Paradoxical Truths?

- Biblical paradoxes cannot be resolved by the human mind; we can only accept them by faith; and, we *must* accept them.
- Learn from them.

It Should Produce Humility

- Why do so many only admit their sins when caught?
 - David
 - 2Sam. 12:1-14
 - Psalm 51:1-17

It Should Produce Humility

- Though others may never discover our sins, God knows
 - Psalms 69:5 - “O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.”
 - Heb. 4:13 - “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

It Should Produce Humility

- Christ taught disciples to admit their sins when they pray
 - Luke 11:1-4
- Christians should never be self-satisfied, but pray and confess their sins every day
 - 1John 1:8-9 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- The human tendency is to condone in self what one condemns in others:
 - “I just make mistakes, but my brother sins.”
 - “I could see my faults as well as anyone, if I had any!”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- One must never view the faults of others in a way he would refuse to have himself reviewed
 - Matt. 7:1-2 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- Must begin with examining self
 - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.”
 - 1Cor. 11:28, 31 - “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”
 - “I began with examining myself, and when I finished, I discovered I had no time remaining to examine my neighbor.”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- Forgiveness of sins is predicated upon forgiving others
 - Mark 11:25 - “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- One must learn to show compassion and mercy toward the weak and erring
 - Heb. 2:17 - “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

It Should Help To View Neighbors And Their Sins Differently

- It should never lead one to:
 - Be tolerant of sin
 - Compromise with sinners while they are still in their sins
 - Peter (the ex-denier) was firm in his treatment of the sins of others
 - Acts 5:1-4
 - Acts 8:18-23

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- All humans have sinned, past, present, and into the future
- Jesus is the only sinless being who lived in this world
 - 1Peter 2:22 - “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”
 - 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us”
 - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- Not even the very best of Bible men were *sinless*. They have been acknowledged as *blameless*
 - Zacharias and Elizabeth - Luke 1:6
 - Christians can be described as blameless - 1Cor. 1:8; Phil. 2:15; 1Thes. 5:23; 1Tim. 3:2, 10; Titus 1:6-7; 2Peter 3:14

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- There is a significant Biblical difference between sinless and blameless.
- We follow men only when they follow Christ
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
 - Phil. 3:17 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- Every human being will eventually fail in certain particulars; Christ is the only perfect one.
- Some who have left the faith because they have been upset by some preacher, elder, or member they admired.
- In disappointment, they return to the world
 - 2Peter 2:20-21

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- “I didn’t come to church because they...”
- Answer: You want everyone else to be perfect without being so yourself.
 - Did it ever occur to you that these people are on the same journey as you, facing the same obstacles that block your way?
 - The same grace and benefit of the doubt that you want, why are you having so much trouble giving it to them?

It Should Teach One To Avoid Thinking Of Men More Highly Than He Ought

- You presume to be so judgmental of others?!
 - Are you so jealous of someone doing better than you that you must pull them down to your level of spiritual weakness?
- If your faith is centered in Christ, the entire congregation could digress without affecting your faithfulness
 - 1Cor. 2:1-5

It Should Increase Appreciation Of Dependence On The Grace Of God

- Rom. 3:24
- Rom. 5:8-11
- Rom 7:24-25
- Eph. 2:1-9
- Col. 1:21-22
- Titus 2:11-12
- 1Cor. 15:9-10 - “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

It Should Increase Appreciation Of Dependence On The Grace Of God

- “I am not what I ought to be, ah! How imperfect and deficient! I am not what I wish to be. I abhor what is evil, and I would cleave to what is good. I am not what I hope to be. Soon, soon, shall I put off mortality, and, with mortality, all sin and imperfection. Yet though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor what I hope to be, I can truly say I am not what I once was, a slave to sin and Satan; I can heartily join with the apostle and acknowledge, By the grace of God, I am what I am.” (John Newton)

It Should Increase Appreciation Of Dependence On The Grace Of God

- When one realizes his own sinfulness, he recognizes there is no room for pride
 - 1Cor. 1:30-31 - “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- 31 that, as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

It Should Cause One To Cultivate Character

- Cultivate vigilance over self.
 - 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
 - Phil. 2:12 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”
 - Rom. 11:20, 22 - “Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”

It Should Cause One To Cultivate Character

- Cultivate confidence and avoid despair.
 - God did not cast off Abraham, David, or Peter because they sinned
 - Psalms 37:23-24 - “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

It Should Cause One To Cultivate Character

- Cultivate confidence and avoid despair.
 - The Lord forgives those who repent
 - Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”
 - Acts 8:22 - “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.”

It Should Cause One To Cultivate Character

- Cultivate endurance to finish the race
 - Heb. 10:36-39 - “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Everyone Sins

- The difference between Christians and sinners is the way they respond to that fact
 - One repents and renounces his wrongs
 - The other refuses.
 - The Christian loathes his sins and longs for a time when he will be completely free of sin.
 - The rebellious sinner loves his sins and revels in them.