

Missing the Mark

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

Isaiah 59:1-2
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
James 1:22

Purpose: To help someone understand sin and to identify the sinful nature in their lives. To install in them the desire to be rid of sin

Review: What have you been learning from the Scriptures you have been reading?

I. Who has missed the mark? (Romans 3:21-23; Eph.2:1-3; Hebrews 4:15)

Question: Who has sinned? Answer: Everyone!!

The Greek word *husterio* (translated “falls short” in Romans 3:23) is associated with archery. It means “to miss the target” or “to fall short of the target.” Jesus' nature is sinless. He is the only one who never missed the target of perfection.

II. How does mankind miss the mark? (Galatians 5:16-24)

A. Galatians 5 describes two categories of sin: sins of omission and sins of commission. What is the difference?

B. Verses 16-18 identify the sinful nature; not just one or two acts of sin. It is God's desire to eliminate the things that hurt us.

C. Verses 19-21 Define each one present in your life.

D. What is the result of living in the acts of the sinful nature according to verse 21?

III. How does one hit the mark? (Galatians 5:22-26.)

Sinful nature would also include NOT having these qualities. These qualities come from the Spirit living in the Christian.

(Missing the Mark Continued)

IV. What are the consequences of missing the mark

- A. **It separates** us from God. We put up this wall, not God.
- B. **It brings enslavement.** Talk about how sin hardens us. That is, as time goes on we begin to compromise and rationalize. It becomes easier and easier to sin.
- C. **It causes guilt.** Guilt destroys relationships. Guilt is a signal from God, like pain is to the body. How many of your relationships have been destroyed by sin and guilt from sin?
- D. **It causes death** (separation). Temporary pleasure is the only "benefit" that sin has. Then spiritual death comes. Sin always separates. List as many areas/examples as you can where sin causes separation.

Question: Why do so many people have such a difficult time hitting the mark?

V. The applied Word gives us a bull's-eye. (James 1:13-15; 19-25)

- A. We are responsible for missing the mark. We choose to miss the mark (verses 13-15).
- B. We are deceived and are not objective about what we are really like (verses 22-25).
- C. God calls us to rid ourselves of sin by humbly accepting His word. It is a mindset (Romans 8:5-8).
- D. The Bible is a spiritual mirror. It reflects exactly **how we look spiritually to God**. This can be intimidating.

Question: Why do we need to spend time in front of the spiritual mirror, the Bible?

Remember, you cannot hit the mark without aiming at the mark.

- E. Look intently into the Word. It brings freedom and allows us to get closer to the mark.
- F. The key is to accept and do what the Word says, not what everyone else says (James 1:22).

(Missing the Mark Continued)

Question: How does one determine if they are missing the mark?

VI. Galatians 5:19-21 provides a list of sins which, if practiced, will cause you to miss the mark. Think for a moment, “How much sin did it take for Adam and Eve to be separated from God?”

- A. Sexual Immorality = sex outside of marriage
- B. Impurity = lust (looking with the desire to sin)
- C. Debauchery = sensuality, an over-indulgence in the senses
- D. Idolatry = worshipping anything other than God
- E. Witchcraft = magic arts; astrology
- F. Hatred = intense hostility toward others
- G. Discord = causing division, disharmony
- H. Jealousy = suspecting rivalry or unfaithfulness
- I. Fits of Rage = anger
- J. Selfish ambition = selfishness
- K. Dissensions = quarrels
- L. Factions = cliques, party spirit
- M. Envy = painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with the desire to possess the same advantage
- N. Drunkenness = intoxication
- O. Orgies = partying, reveling, losing self-control
- P. Other = i.e. murder, rape, lying, stealing, etc

We give “missing the mark” (sin) new names. For example, sexual immorality is coined “making love,” fits of rage renamed “over-reacting,” selfish ambition is simply “being ambitious,” and a person who participates in factions or dissensions is said to be “socially mal-adjusted.” We must remember, SIN IS STILL SIN, and as such, it still results in death, every time.

The “sin list” above is all sins of commission. List at least ten sins of omission that we must also guard against. Remember, sins of omission are just as dangerous as sins of commission. Why is that true?

(Missing the Mark Continued)

Drawing conclusions and challenges for the "Missing the Mark" study.

1. Read Galatians 5:19-21 and Mark 7:17-23. Write down the sins of your past life and the present. Take them to your tent of meeting with God (quiet time).

Why is it important to be specific about the areas where we are falling short?

Take a moment to think before you answer this question. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being best) rate your spiritual marksmanship? That is, how close are you to the target of living a new lifestyle in Christ Jesus?

2. Remember, you must be accountable for your missing the mark.
3. Before we get together again, read Matthew 26:36 - 27:54.
In light of this passage, what are we to do now?