

people heard was a quote where Paul described his struggles with sin in Romans 7:14-21. He had served Jesus for twenty years. He didn't have a girl friend on the side. He was aware of those areas in his life that were not what Jesus wanted them to be. And he said he hated it and was doing his best to do and be better.

Some are *sincere* people who are sincerely wrong. The Pharisee Nicodemus, was wrong *intellectually*. He thought obeying God and being a good and religious person made him right with God. Gnostic teachers in the church were wrong *morally and ethically*. They said committing sins willfully did not affect salvation. John said in First John, **"Whoever says he is in the light, but hates his brother, is still in the darkness" (2: 9).**

Some, of course, are *satanic implants* (Mark 4:15) like these Pharisaic Rabbis who used the Bible as an excuse not to help their aged parents financially when they were in need. And among the "Twelve" was Judas. These are the *"show offs"* - bad people pretending to be good people. Jesus called them "actors" - hypocrites.

### The Seekers in Our Churches

"There was a man named Nicodemus. He was, a Pharisee who came to Jesus one night and said, 'We know you have come from God.'" -- John 3:1

"There was a man named Zacchaeus, a rich Tax Collector who wanted to see who Jesus was." -- Luke 19:1-8

Zacchaeus was a short little fellow, who heard Jesus was coming to town, and climbed a tree to see Him. He invited Jesus to dinner and became His follower . He gave half of his money to the poor and paid people back four times what he had cheated them out of.

All through High School and College, I was a seeker. These are people who are dissatisfied with themselves and with life and are looking for something better. They are trying to stop doing

things they are ashamed of; things that hurt them and the people they love. Many are trying to make sense out life and find peace, etc.

The Bible says **"no one seeks for God"** (Romans 3:11). The truth is, we who look for God have been touched by God. We are being **"led"** to repentance (Romans 2:4) and being **"drawn"** to Jesus (John 6:44). The Holy Spirit is **"convincing"** us of the truth about **"sin"** and about, **righteousness** - *living right* and being right with God {Matthew 5:20; Romans 3:19-24}. And He also convinces us that "Judgment" before God is coming (John 16:8).

One day we realize and personalize the "good news" that God loves us and will forgive us, no matter what we are or what we have done. Paul, who once had Christians imprisoned and put to death, said he was the "chief of sinners" and found mercy (1 Timothy 1). We also find that God can change us and slowly help us become the right kind of person. We say with Edgar A. Guest:

"I have to live with myself and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know.  
I don't want to come to the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done."

There is a serious side to this. There comes a time when it becomes **personal**. We are no longer thinkers studying the truth. We are face to face with the One who said, **"I am the truth"** (John 14:6). People appealing for us to come to Christ, are not the ones appealing; Jesus is. If we don't accept His salvation, we are rejecting Him personally. We are telling Him, no. The day will come when it is too late to decide. One time is death; and the other is the Return of Jesus. Take your hand and feel your heart beat. As you do, remember, we are all one heart beat from heaven and one heart beat from hell. The saddest sight at the Judgment will be those who said they were going to accept salvation "one day" and never did it.