

God's Perfect Standard

Romans 3 v 23 “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3 v 21 – 26 - God's plan for us to “Make the Grade”

v 21 – 22 We are made clean by God's grace. It's nothing we have done.

- i) It comes by faith in Christ Jesus. **v 22**
- ii) It comes by the redemption of Christ Jesus **v 24**
- iii) It comes by the atoning sacrifice of Christ Jesus **v 25**

The 10 Commandments – Deuteronomy 5 v 6 – 21

What purpose?

Does God expect us to keep them?

If not, why do we have them?

Is He trying to catch us out? Does He want us to fail?

God is showing us that we have no chance in attaining His perfect standard.
He knows we will fall short every time.

He also knows that His grace is the only way to be saved from punishment.

Romans 6 v 23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8 v 1 – 4 “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”

Romans 11 v 6 “So, if then we are saved by grace, then it has nothing to do with works; because if it were by works then “grace” would no longer be “grace”.

We will never reach perfection, for –

Ephesians 2 v 8 – 10 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, not anything that you may have done, for it is a gift from God. It's not by works or self-effort, so that means that none of you can ever boast about it.”

God's Perfect Forgiveness

Psalm 51 v 7 “Wash me, and I will be whiter than the snow”

What is MERCY?

- Pity and compassion shown by a more powerful being over a person who has no right to receive any form of kindness.
- This mercy is evident in the pity and compassion God shows to His creation in divine forgiveness.

Normal forgiveness of one to another is not MERCY, for that is the least that God expects of us. **Luke 11 v 4** The Lord's Prayer.

God's MERCY –

Ephesians 4 v 32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

Colossians 2 v 13 “...He forgave us all our sins...”

Colossians 3 v 13 “...forgive as the Lord forgives you...”

Psalm 65 v 3 “When we were overwhelmed by our sin, You forgave our transgressions.”

Psalm 51 v 1 - 2 The mercy we need from God is equal to the great compassion that God has for us!

- i) I know I am a sinner **v2**
- ii) I know my sin is an obstacle **v3**
- iii) I know it saddens God **v4**
- iv) I know I have a sinful nature **v5**

We can rejoice in God's MERCY **v 8 – 10**

God's MERCY redeems us back to the joy of our Salvation.

Colossians 1 v 13 – 14 “For He has rescued us from the control of the dominion of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption by His blood, the forgiveness of our sins.”

Romans 8 v 1 “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...” God's MERCY!

God's Perfect Life

John 10 v 10b "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

What is the main job-description for a shepherd?

To find green pastures – feed **Psalm 23 v 2**

To find still waters – quench thirst **Psalm 23 v 2**

To keep them safe – protect **John 10 v 3**

To go before them – lead **John 10 v 4**

But, most importantly – to keep them ALIVE!

The parallel of the shepherd // and Jesus, The Good Shepherd

John 10 v 7 "Jesus told them, 'I tell you the truth, I am the Gate'; **v 9** "...so whoever enters through Me, will be saved."

i) Perfect life is through the Father.

John 14 v 6 "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."

ii) Perfect life is through believing.

John 11 v 25 – 26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live.....and will never die."

iii) Perfect life is through Christ.

Philippians 1 v 21 "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

iv) Perfect life is through dying to self.

Romans 6 v 8 –11 "Now, if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him...the death Christ died was once and for all...so, in the same way, you must also count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."