

# Darren Clarke: 25 April 2021

## “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

### (Sermon Summary)

This sermon explores the meaning and significance of Romans 3:23, encouraging us to reflect on this familiar verse in greater depth.

### Context in the book of Romans

In chapter 1 the Apostle Paul first speaks about the Gospel of salvation. The Gentiles are without excuse for rejecting God, because his existence and power is evident from creation.

In chapter 2, Paul addresses the Jews. The Old Testament law and circumcision cannot deal with their sin.

In chapter 3, Paul concludes that both Jews and Gentiles are in the same place - all equally guilty before God. He then returns to discuss the revelation of righteousness through Jesus Christ.

### What is the glory of God that we fall short of?

This verse is not referring to God's eternal attributes such as his almighty power. In Isaiah 42:8 God declares that “I will not share my glory with another.” Even if we never sinned, we could not become like God in this sense.

Instead, the verse is referring to the glory of God's perfect righteousness. God created man in his image, able to enjoy unbroken fellowship with Him. However, since the Fall “There is none good, not one” (Mark 10:18) and we can no longer go into God's presence. All the rituals, sacrifices and laws of the Old Testament were insufficient to restore this relationship.

### The universality of the problem

We are all equally guilty before God, so as churchgoers we should not have an arrogant attitude to those outside. Instead, we should pray for the unsaved.

The divine image given to man has been distorted and we are morally and spiritually ugly and depraved outside of Christ. Without Christ, none of us would give glory to God.

### The severity of the problem

The problem goes deeper than our sinful acts - we are ‘born in iniquity’ (Psalm 51:5) and sinful by nature. God has given each of us a conscience and evidence of His existence, so we are responsible for our sin. God's judgment on our sin is fair - but what happened to Jesus was not fair. The sinless Saviour was punished for our sins.

We are lost - there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

## **The good news**

Through Christ we are freely justified. God had always planned to send His Son to reconcile man to God. Our past sins are forgiven, but more than this, even though we continue to sin, God says "Not guilty". He has paid the price and set us free. Jesus Christ took the full force of the wrath of God in His body. Our sin is exchanged for His righteousness, and justice is satisfied.

Now we no longer fall short and can approach God's throne boldly.

As saved people, our purpose is now to glorify God. We can be conformed to the image of His Son, and what was lost in the garden can be restored. We need to experience this personally.

## **Have you put your trust in Christ?**

The last year has shown how weak and vulnerable we are. Any moment, something like the pandemic can come along and change our lives.

But God is sovereign, and we have certainty in our lives because God knows the beginning from the end. As churches, we are going to face difficulties and opposition in the coming years, and we need the truth of God in our hearts. We must continue to go forward with our full confidence in God.