

REVERB::CRUX::Everyone Blows It::lesson two

FAMILY DEVOTION

What images come to mind when you think of “missing the mark”? Do you think of a dartboard or an archery target with a bull’s eye in the middle? Do you think of the missed measurements of a carpenter? Do you think of a bad test score? Or do you think of an incomplete pass at a football game? Any way you look at it, “missing the mark” means that you come up short. Whatever the standard was that was set, you somehow managed to miss it altogether.

“Missing the mark” is often an expression used when we think of the word sin.

Read Romans 3:21–24 as a family. The apostle Paul was explaining the whole concept of the gospel message of Christ to the Roman believers so that they would be on the same page with him concerning that message. The way that Paul explained it was like this: If you think that you can keep God’s standards, the Law, guess again. You’ve already blown it. In fact, everyone has blown it. According to Paul, that was water under the bridge. The damage has already been done, and people have proven to God and to themselves that they cannot keep His Law. Everyone has missed the mark. The message Paul sent was that because everyone has sinned, they deserved death. To use an old Seinfeld expression, this means “No soup for you!” It’s over! So, what was humanity to do? The only way to salvation had to come from God, and He would provide it through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus.

The question is: How can we have this salvation from our sinfulness—from missing God’s mark? Paul made it clear that the salvation offered by God is a gift from Him to us. The way to have a gift is to receive it. Everyone likes to get a gift. But a gift is not yours until you reach out and receive it. Receiving a gift is a step in faith. You take a gift not really knowing what’s inside. But you act in faith by receiving it, anticipating that what’s inside is good. Receiving God’s gift of salvation is an act of faith. We know and anticipate that the chains of sin have been broken, that we have been set free, that we have peace with God through Christ, and that eternal life is given to us. What a gift! There is nothing else in the world like it, and it is there for the taking. Have you received it yet?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is it that you keep trying to do to earn God’s love and forgiveness? Can it be earned?
2. Why do you think the world so often rejects the gift that God has to offer?
3. What do you think are the differences in faith and mere belief?
4. What steps of faith have you taken in the past? What makes faith such a struggle for people?
5. What would you want others to know about the salvation that you have received and the faith that you now express?