



KEY THOUGHTS

- Guilt is a universal experience. Everybody at some time or other has had the bad feeling of not doing what they should have done. Even people who deny that there is any such thing as right and wrong are trapped by the law of God that is written in our hearts.
- In Matthew 5 Jesus famous sermon on the mount he talks about the law He says He didn't come to abolish the law He came to fulfill the law- then he says if we break even one of the smallest of these commandments we are guilty- in fact in saying this Jesus points to the religious leaders the Pharisees that would be hanging out away from the crowd because they were so righteous that they couldn't even be close to regular people. It was there job to be holy, to be good to follow all the rules and Jesus says if you want to get into the kingdom of heaven you have to be even better than those holy people. Just think of what the crowd was thinking, Jesus I'm just a regular person that's their job to be good to be holy and I have to be better than them. I can't do it that's not even possible.
- This is important because this tells us no one no matter how good you are how hard you try to obey, how much better you are than your neighbor, how many times you have come to church in the last year **ALL HAVE SINNED AN FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD – BUT NOW** we have been given righteousness because of our faith and believing in Jesus and what he has done to set us free. Faith is-
 - Faith eliminates pride.
 - Faith exalts what God has done not what we do.
 - Faith admits that we can't keep the law and measure up to Gods standards – that we need help.
 - Faith is based on our relationship to God not our performance for God.
- Jesus by His work on the cross pays for atones for our sins – past present and future sin - Justified by what – our faith our believing into Jesus. So there is nothing we can do to earn it. It's by our faith in what Jesus has done for us. Does that mean because there is nothing we can do to earn its free that we should just keep on sinning all the more, no because what has been done for us we should all the more try our best to live lives of gratitude and love for the one who saved us. Unfortunately this free gift that has been given to us isn't received because we are not willing to admit that we need to be rescued, we try to do it on our own never admitting our guilt, never truly surrendering.
- It's not good people go to heaven – forgiven people go to heaven.

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 3
- Luke 15

PRACTICAL AND REFLECTION

- You are a sinner you are in trouble – God loves sinners and sent His son on their behalf
- Jesus - You are hopeless and lost and God sent me to find you