

Something to Pray About

February 2013 – Cindy Sears

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:23 NKJV

Missing the Mark

Sin = a missing of the mark; a path, a lifestyle, or act deviating from that which God has marked out. To sin is to trespass, to pass beyond the limits set by God's law. (see Vine's, pp. 345-346)

No one likes to be called a sinner. Those outside the church are particularly averse to being told that something they are doing is a sin. Yet sin by any other name remains sin. It means disobedience to the will of the Father, of our Creator.

The One, Holy, and Righteous God cannot do other than to look upon sin in judgment and wrath. But why does sin bother Him so? Is it not because it causes us to experience so much pain and sorrow?

Maybe the unbelievers and we who believe would be less averse to having our sins pointed out to us and better understand God's wrath toward and judgment of sin if we thought of sin the way it is used in the Bible—a missing of the mark.

God, our Creator, knows what is best for us. He has set boundaries before us to show us the best way to live. He set these boundaries because He loves us and does not wish to see us harm ourselves or others. When we sin, we miss the mark, we step over the boundaries; and we get hurt and other people get hurt, and our society and the culture suffer also. The more we violate the boundaries that God has set, the more harm occurs. But when we aim to follow God's will, there is less pain for everyone—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual—even in a fallen world.

Just as a good parent sets boundaries for his children to keep them from harm, so God gives us laws to live by that will keep us from harm. Even in a fallen world, living by God's standards is a step above all other standards, and helps us to cause less pain to ourselves and to each other.

And through the grace of Christ our Savior, no matter how often or how broadly you have "missed the mark," Jesus Christ stands before you with open, nail-scarred hands ready to cleanse you and to receive you into His Father's kingdom.

