

July 10, 2016



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
To avoid drifting away from God, stay anchored to the Rock

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Drifting in our relationship with God is hardly noticeable at first; it happens gradually. However, spending time talking with Him in prayer and reading His Word, confessing our wrongs to Him, and interacting with other followers of Jesus can help us stay anchored in Him. As we connect with the Lord regularly, He will be faithful to sustain us, and we can avoid drifting away.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away*

(Heb 2:1 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 27, 2016)

**Series: Toward A New Salvation**

**UNIT: A World Gone Wrong**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Set Right By Grace**

(Rom 3:21-31)

## Struggling Under Sin's Power Rom 3:9-20

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson teaches that humans while on this earth will always be **Struggling Under Sin's Power**. The study's aim is to understand that we need salvation from sin. The study's application is to know that our attitudes and actions can be changed when we repent and ask Jesus to forgive our sin and trust in Him.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Our text begins with a question. It seeks an answer, a conclusion. The issue concerns the relative standing of Jews and Gentiles. Are Jews in a better position spiritually before God? One would think so. They have the "oracles of God" (Rom. 3:2), after all. However, this would be the wrong conclusion. Many tend to view sin in relative terms—we can always find someone worse than we are! But God is not dealing with us in relative terms. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). God's judgment of sin is absolute. One sin is enough to separate us from Him forever. And all of us, whether Jew or Gentile, have many, many sins. Let us explore this situation further. The Jew here is conceived as the classic religious man. He has God's Word and God's law. He has religious duty and religious structure to order his life, just like many people today. On the other hand, the Gentile is conceived of as less religious. He may be completely irreligious and not inclined to a careful and ordered religious life. Or he may adhere to a loose religious paganism, with a moral and religious code that is likely much less serious and severe than that of the Jew. Yet Paul emphatically states that the Jew is not better off than the Gentile. He meant this in the sense of dealing with sin. Both stand guilty before God. Both fail under the power of sin. Both are sinners, and both are condemned before God. The religion of the religious Jew cannot deliver him. And the moral license of the pagan Gentile does not make him free. The religious man and the irreligious man, then and today, are both sinners and both under sin's domain and power. Paul declared that this had been demonstrated by his argument in Romans. It is the only proper scriptural conclusion. All who fall under this teaching (and that includes everyone) should pay heed. This is the doctrine of universal guilt. All men are sinners. All men are guilty before God, and no amount of religion can deliver them. The evidence is given in Romans 3:10-18. Paul quoted numerous Old Testament passages to establish the depth and nature of human sinfulness. We must pay heed to this because we will never seek the grace of God's salvation without a proper consciousness of our sins. It is tempting to look around and see a person who outwardly seems to be a worse sinner than you are and conclude with some pride that God must be happy with you. This is the great error—to think that God grades us by comparing us to others. Rather, we are judged by God's holy Word and His own impeccable holiness. None of us can stand under such scrutiny, given what we are. "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" (Ps. 130:3). We need forgiveness to be saved, not religious standing. We need God's grace, not our works. The Jew and the Gentile are the same. The religious man and the irreligious man are in the same boat. All fall under the power and guilt of sin, and all need a Saviour.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### Scope of Sin (Romans 3:9-12)

#### *All have sinned (9)*

There is none good except God\_(Mark 10:18)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)

Even if we claim to be without sin, we lie\_(1 John 1:8)

If angels are not pure, what chance does man have to be pure\_(Job 15:14-16)

Even our most righteous acts are like filthy rags in God's sight\_(Isa 64:6)

#### *All have failed to seek God (10-11)*

Fail to seek God because of relying on earthly powers\_(Isa 31:1)

Fail to seek God because of not forsaking evil ways and thoughts\_(Isa 55:6-7)

Fail to seek God because of having a mind hostile to God\_(Rom 8:7)

Fail to seek God because of turning away from God(Ps 14:2-3)

Yet, in God's mercy He will sometimes reveal Himself despite our not seeking Him\_(Isa 65:1)

#### *All have failed to Do Good (12)*

There is no one who does good\_(Ps 53:1)

There is no one who never sins\_(Eccl 7:20)

All have gone astray at one time or another (Isa 53:6)

All have followed the desires of their sinful nature\_(Eph 2:3)

Even when we are obedient, we have only done our duty\_(Luke 17:10)

### Character of Sin (Romans 3:13-18)

#### *Affects Our Tongues (13-14)*

Sin affects tongues because sin makes the tongue corrupt the whole person\_(James 3:6)

Sin affects tongues because sin makes the tongue cause one to be unclean (Matt 15:11)

Sin affects tongues because speaking rashly causes ruin (Prov 13:3)

Sin affects tongues because it keeps one from keeping control over their tongues\_(James 1:26)

#### *Affects Our Feet (15-17)*

Sin affects our feet by causing wicked thoughts which makes us rush into evil (Prov 6:18)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk away from justice and have no peace\_(Isa 59:8)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk crooked paths that are devious (Prov 2:15)

Sin affects our feet by causing us to walk in places with snares and lies\_(Prov 22:5)

#### *Affects Our Eyes (18)*

Sin affects our eyes because the eyes are the lamp of the body and if they see darkness, the body if full of darkness (Matt 6:22-23)

Sin affects our eyes because it is through our eyes that we are influenced to sin\_(Matt 18:9)

Sin affects our eyes because Satan uses our eyes to make us lust\_(1 John 2:16)

### Definer of Sin—The Law (Romans 3:19-20)

#### *Confirms Our Guilt (19)*

God's word confirms guilt because it makes us recognize sin (Rom 7:12-13)

God's word confirms guilt because it provides warnings\_(Ps 19:11)

God's word confirms guilt because passions are identified by the law\_(Rom 7:5)

#### *Defined failure to justify (20)*

The Law failed to justify, but it introduced a better hope\_(Heb 7:18-19)

The Law failed to justify because it was only a shadow of the things to come (Heb 10:1-4)

The Law failed to justify because it was weakened by the sinful nature (Rom 8:3)

The Law failed to justify because no one can be justified by the law\_(Gal 2:16)

#### *Provided the knowledge of sin (20)*

The Law defined what constituted sin (Rom 7:7)

The Law warns about sin (Ps 19:8-11)

The Law provides an understanding of how to keep one's way pure (Ps 119:9)

The Law provides how not to sin (Ps 119:11)