

October 13, 2026

Romans 3:10-12, 23

[10] as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. [11] There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. [12] All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one. [23] For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

What are these verses saying?

This is where the Romans Road begins, with an honest look at the problem. Paul has spent chapters showing that every person, religious or not, is in the same spot. No one is righteous, no one gets it right on their own, and no one is searching for God the way they should. Then verse 23 sums it up: all have sinned. Not some, not just the people who look like they've made a mess of things, all. And the word for "come short" pictures an archer who falls short of the target. The target is God's glory, his perfect standard, and everyone misses it. It's not a pleasant truth, but it's the starting point, because nobody looks for a rescue until they know they need one.

How can this be applied?

In everyday life, everyone knows what it's like to miss the mark. Missing a deadline at work, saying the wrong thing to a friend, or failing to live up to our own personal standards happens to all of us. Making a mistake doesn't automatically make you a terrible person; it is simply part of being human. But the Bible is talking about a deeper kind of miss. A moral and spiritual gap that no amount of self-improvement, hard work, or practice can completely fix. We can't train or hustle our way to perfection.

That realization is humbling, but it is also surprisingly freeing. It means you don't have to waste energy pretending you've got it all together, and you don't have to look down on someone else who is struggling, because we are all standing in the exact same place. Admitting that we've all fallen short isn't about beating yourself up; it's the open door to grace. Recognizing where we stand isn't the end of the story, it is the first step toward something much better.

<u>Connecting Question</u>
Is it easier for you to admit a mistake in a normal everyday situation than to admit you need help from God, and why?

Prayer Points

- Ask God for honesty to see yourself the way he does, without excuses or comparison.
- Pray against pride, that no one on the team would think they're better than anyone else in God's eyes.
- Pray for teammates who feel like they've messed up too much to be forgiven.
- Thank God that he didn't leave us stuck in our sin, and that the story doesn't end at verse 23.
- Ask for a humble heart that's quick to admit when it's wrong and quick to receive grace.