

Elder Bobby Willis



**The Flesh Desires To Be Known As Righteous,  
But, the Spirit Knows Better!**

The world we are living in is full of unrighteous acts by elect and non-elect alike. However, it is the elect children of God of which we are concerned with in being able to recognize who we are by nature and who we are by the help of the Spirit of God. Anyway, born again children of God know better, we just don't always do better.

Listening to people talk recently has reminded me that people who are living their lives dwelling in the flesh are more apt to see themselves as righteous and not as sinners in need of Christ. Let's take a look at our perfect guide (God's Holy Word - the Bible) to see where we really are and what we need to improve our service to the Lord.

First, we will go to Romans 3:23, **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;..."** Paul, in making this statement, says all have sinned without exception. Coming short means we are not where we should be in our dedication to being good disciples of Christ, leaving us much work yet to be done in praising, honoring, and glorifying His name. Not in order to become a child of God, but because we are.

Secondly, we will go to 2nd. Chronicles 6:36 where we find Solomon saying, **"...(for there is no man which sinneth not),..."** Now, what prompted him to say this? Solomon, by the wisdom which God had given him, understood what we all need to learn and accept as truth concerning the sinful condition of man. He knew the true sinfulness of our fleshly nature and was beseeching the Lord to forgive them when they sinned, knowing that God would be angry for them doing so and they would need forgiveness. It is no different for us today as we have not lost our sinful ways, plus I find myself needing forgiveness daily.

Now let us go to the Prophet Isaiah in chapter 53:6, **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."** Have we so soon forgotten that it was our sins which brought the

necessity of Christ to go to the Cross of Calvary? Sheep are those which the Lord has used to represent the children of God, and that we have all gone astray in the sins of commission and omission. The result of our sins brought about God laying our iniquity (sin) on Jesus Christ our Savior.

For those who THINK they live above sin, it just means they have not read nor taken to heart the writing of John in I John 1:8-10 - **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”** This sounds serious because it is serious. If we want the Lord to draw closer unto us, we must draw closer to Him. A good way to start this process is to recognize our sinful nature, understand we have been given a Spiritual nature by the action of the new birth which is given us by Christ, and then set forth on the teachings of Hebrews 12:1-3, **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”** ***“Think About It”***