

Title: Close To Perfect – Romans 3 9-20

Read:

⁹⁻²⁰ So where does that put us? Do we Jews get a better break than the others? Not really. Basically, all of us, whether insiders or outsiders, start out in identical conditions, which is to say that we all start out as sinners. Scripture leaves no doubt about it: There's nobody living right, not even one, nobody who knows the score, nobody alert for God. They've all taken the wrong turn; they've all wandered down blind alleys. No one's living right; I can't find a single one. Their throats are gaping graves, their tongues slick as mudslides. Every word they speak is tinged with poison. They open their mouths and pollute the air. They race for the honour of sinner-of-the-year, litter the land with heartbreak and ruin, Don't know the first thing about living with others. They never give God the time of day. This makes it clear, doesn't it, that whatever is written in these Scriptures is not what God says about others but to us to whom these Scriptures were addressed in the first place! And it's clear enough, isn't it, that we're sinners, every one of us, in the same sinking boat with everybody else? Our involvement with God's revelation doesn't put us right with God. What it does is force us to face our complicity in everyone else's sin.

Think:

Ever had someone say, "you think you're special just because you're a Christian huh!" Or maybe someone has said "I'm surprised you did that I thought you were a Christian." If you have heard people say this then they are missing the point. Being A Christian doesn't make you the perfect student. Being a Christian doesn't make you the perfect friend. Being a Christian just makes you aware there are things you need to get better at, and thankful that God sent Jesus. We know we stuff up at school, we know we stuff up at home, we know we stuff up at college. God has made us aware of these things through his Holy Spirit. Not to make us feel guilty, but to help us become more Jesus like. Actually I am glad that God only seems to let me know a little bit at a time, I think if he let me know all the stuff I could improve on all at once, I would panic. So basically we aren't special because we've got Jesus, we've got Jesus just because we stuff up like everyone else.

Pray:

Lord thank you for sending Jesus to pay the price for all the selfish stuff I do. Please help others see there is nothing special about me but plenty special about Jesus. Amen.

Action:

So know you know we are all flawed, what do you want to improve on? Why not phone a friend and pray about it now? Bye.