

## TUESDAY — We've All Blown It!

**Big Point:** *Sin has a way of knocking us off our pedestal of pride that fakes us into believing that we are perfect prized possessions—it's only when we choose to accept Christ's free gift that we can live wisely and have eternal life!*

*Once we start believing that humans are infallible, that's where the trouble starts. The media can almost mesmerize us into thinking that those who do great things are beyond reproach, that they are quite simply anointed and appointed in a manner that we could never ever dream for ourselves. Think about the most noble, most upstanding person that you respect—whether that be a public figure, a close personal friend, a mentor, or even those who have been appointed as a saint. Do you realize they have all sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard? All of them! But when one of those public figures has one blemish, one stain that media can exploit, oh man, they just go for the jugular, don't they? We always see it in politics, one after another, folks like Herman Cain just bite the dust. Think about the most recent controversial story of Joe Paterno. Now that brought out quite a few emotions, from Christian and non-Christians alike. The question is, who decides whether these people can be made right by God? Is it us, or is it God? And by the same token, how are we to respond when the figurative "media-stoning" begins—when someone's sin is written on the front page of the New York Times? Should we go ahead and cast our own stones?*

*We spoke of Facebook earlier, and it is so easy to cast stones at someone as we sit behind our computer screens. But even then, the scriptures still apply, that if even the most heinous or the most noteworthy person confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart, they are made right by God. And we are to live wisely among non-believers, making the most of every opportunity, even with the Joe Paterno incident, allowing our conversation to be gracious and attractive—yes, even on Facebook (now, don't go cancelling your Facebook account, we won't judge you!)*

### READ and THINK...Find Answers in the Bible

1. The scriptures below talk about who has sinned and what price tag that sin has. But what does the free gift of God allow? Write out your answer after reading the scripture below:

***Romans 3:23 (New Living Translation)***

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23*

***Romans 6:23 (New Living Translation)***

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Answer:**

2. God requires us to take some action when we receive this free gift of salvation. We can't just have a conscious thought that this all seems good and right. We have to take some concrete steps. Write out what those steps are as outlined in Romans 10:9-10.

**Romans 10:9-10 (New Living Translation)**

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

**Answer:**

3. If you are like most people, when you are around non-believers, you sometimes just want to fit in, be like everyone else and kind of go with the crowd. Some of us can relate to Peter who did not want to admit he was a Christ follower as there would have been some serious repercussions. But, Colossians 4:5,6 issues a challenge to us—write out those challenges in the space below. What ultimately is this passage preparing us to do?

**Colossians 4:5-6 (New Living Translation)**

*Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.*

**Answer:**

## **LIVE...What will you do now?**

Think back to some of the “media-stonings” that you’ve witnessed in the past. How often did you say to yourself “oh, too bad for that guy” or, “it stinks to be him or her.” Perhaps you just thought it. At anytime, did the scripture passages that we just reviewed in Romans come to mind at all? Describe the thoughts you had and how you can mentally process those incidences in the future.

How comfortable are you as a Christian when you are around non-believers? Do you ever struggle with knowing when to say things and when not to say things? Describe what your typical response is when you find yourself in an awkward situation.

What steps can you take to begin to live wisely so that your conversation is gracious and attractive? Did you sign up for the Apprentice Conference yet? Perhaps a New Christian Life Group would help. What will you do?

## **PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?**

Take the time right now to enter into a state of worshipping God. Turn on some Christian music—something that really touches your heart and begin to think about your own salvation. Praise him for washing your sins away. Ask Him to help you live wisely by making your conversation gracious and attractive.