

## SIN CHANGED THEIR LIVES ...

V	S	E	S	O	M	N	I	A	C	R	M
S	M	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	G	C	Y
E	K	A	L	A	B	J	T	L	K	O	K
U	J	R	R	O	M	C	Z	D	U	A	I
P	A	U	Z	T	U	A	I	Z	O	A	S
E	C	A	B	O	H	V	H	R	R	A	S
T	O	K	A	E	A	A	H	A	M	L	J
E	B	S	H	D	I	A	S	S	R	F	O
R	J	G	A	L	J	T	O	F	E	B	N
G	M	M	E	I	U	N	N	O	A	H	A
E	E	X	L	M	A	I	R	I	M	Y	H
X	X	E	N	O	R	A	A	A	E	V	E

**Words to Find:**  
 Aaron  
 Abraham  
 Adam  
 Ahab  
 Balak  
 Cain  
 David  
 Eli  
 Elijah  
 Eve  
 Jacob  
 Jonah  
 Martha  
 Miriam  
 Moses  
 Noah  
 Peter  
 Samson  
 Sarai  
 Saul  
 Solomon

### Changed Faces

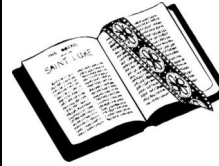
*Revelation*

Many years ago when modern chemistry was in its infancy, a fashionable audience assembled in Paris for an experimental lecture on chemistry. When they came out of the auditorium, they greeted one another with exclamations of dismay. The faces of most of the women had been ludicrously transformed. Their cheeks, lips, and in some cases,

the entire surface of exposed skin had turned into varying shades of blue, yellow, or violet. The chemical effects of the gases set free during the lecture had affected everyone who had used any cosmetics. When the white light of God's presence shall shine upon the hearts of men, everything that has been hidden shall become open, and the naked things shall be manifest.

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# The Bible View



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### Grading on a Curve?

*Bill Brinkworth*

I loved it in school, when the teacher graded us on a curve. The best grade in the class was a 75%. It was then that my normally failing grade of 59% became a "C". "Alright!" I sighed. I wasn't as bad as others.

The truth of the matter was, I still did not perform the way I should have on the test. I still did not know the material. I may have gotten away with not failing, but I had fallen short of what I should have expected of myself. Too many today compare themselves to others in similar fashion when we hear them say:

- "I'm not as bad as he."
- "I don't lie that much."
- "I just drink a little, but I'm not a drunk."

- "Yes, I've stolen, but I'm not a thief."

*Continued on Page 2*

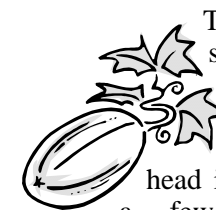
### "Did You Ever Steal a Watermelon?"

*Norman Sorenson, Christian Herald*

A judge some years ago had a very unusual experience during the course of one of his trials. An elderly man, who owned a watermelon patch, had caught a boy stealing his melons, and had him arrested. When the time came for the trial, the man made his complaint to the court, after which the judge turned to the boy and said, "Son, what do you have to say for yourself?"

The boy looked up at the judge with questioning eyes, and answered, "Judge, did you ever steal a watermelon when you was a kid?"

The judge was somewhat startled at the turn of events, dropped his head into his hand for a few moments of thought, and finally responded with, "No cross examination of the court allowed. The case is dismissed." The judge was "on the spot", as we commonly say.



## Grading on a Curve?

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- ☑ “I do look at other women, but I’m not unfaithful or lust-ing, like those men are.”
- ☑ “I say bad words, but I wouldn’t consider myself filthy mouthed.”
- ☑ “I do lose my temper, but not as badly as I’ve seen others do.”
- ☑ “I have gossiped, but just a little.”
- ☑ “Sure, I’ve talked back to my parents; but that’s not the sin of disobedience to parents.”

Again, the truth was that all instances of wrongdoing were still wrong. Justification of one’s bad actions does not make them correct. It just eases the guilt sometimes.

We should not be the standard of measurement of righteousness. How can we? We are sinners like everyone else. We have no right to do the judging, but God does. He has never sinned and hates sin. Ultimately, He will be the judge of our sins — especially if one is unsaved.

To God, all sin is bad. All sin displeases him, and much of the time, cuts off our communication with him. That is why many do not get answered prayer.

We do not always see our



**“God’s Word  
should be  
our only  
measuring tool of  
righteousness.”**

own weaknesses as Revelation 3:17 reminds us: *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”*. We sometimes fool those around us, but God knows our sinfulness.

One group of religious leaders tried to grade themselves at the top of the “curve.” God said to them however, *“... Ye are they which justify your selves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”* (Luke 16:15)

To another group of self-righteous people God said, *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Mat. 7:22-23)

When a group had gathered and was ready to punish an adulteress for her sin, Jesus said, *“... He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”*

We should not compare ourselves to other sinners. We should compare ourselves to the only one that has never sinned, Jesus. We will then find we can never measure up.

*“As it is written, There is*

*none righteous, no, not one:”*  
Romans 3:10 Also: Rom. 3:23

“In good education, grading on a curve is a poor way to truly measure one’s performance. It is also pretentious of us to compare ourselves to others. Wrong is still wrong no matter what degree of “wrong” is committed. God does not grade us on a curve. He always wants us to do right, and He is the “grader”!

## Other People’s Business

*J. B. Hall, [www.liferayministries.com](http://www.liferayministries.com)*

“Peter seeing him saith unto Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry til I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.” John 21:21-22

Peter, like so many of us, was too focused on other people’s business, and not focused enough on his own when it came to his personal relationship with the Lord. Like Peter, we tend to concern ourselves with what other people are, or are not, doing for the Lord, but often neglect our own responsibilities to Him. Jesus did not answer Peter’s question, but instead spoke to the issue Peter needed to have addressed. He quickly redirected Peter’s attention to his own relationship and responsibilities to Him.

Have you been too concerned with other people’s spiritual lives and not enough with your own relationship with the Lord?

## Matthew 7:1-5

*“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”* Mat. 7:1-5

*A further study of judging can be read at:  
[www.openthomineeyes.com/Lessons/Judging.htm](http://www.openthomineeyes.com/Lessons/Judging.htm)*

## None Guilty

*Sunday School Times*

Paul Loizeaux once said, “Oh, how hard it is to find sinners! If only I could find one, I have a marvelous message for him.”

Of course, he meant sinners who know themselves to be sinners. To be a sinner is one thing. To know it is another. But, whether we know it or not, God knows our sinfulness, and knows if we go on without His saving help we will perish. To deliver us from perishing He gave us His Son. That is the two-fold reason then for this gift of His: God’s great love, and man’s great need.

**“... Thou art weighed in the  
balances, and art found  
wanting.” — Daniel 5:27**