

## Reflections with Sharon

### **It is not enough**

*Read Romans 3:10-23*

It is not enough to be a good person who does good things... That is not to say that being good does not matter because it's very good to be good. It is good to give to the poor, feed the hungry, care for the sick, visit those in prison, help the disabled and go to church every Sunday. But if we could do all the good we could for as long as we could, thinking somehow that when it comes time to die, God will let us into Heaven if our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds, then we must know that doing good is not enough to secure us a place in Heaven.

If we could give all our money to feed the poor and get programs in place to eliminate world hunger; if we could eradicate bigotry, put a stop to senseless acts of violence, and cure every kind of social ill, if we could go as far as giving our lives for what we consider a worthy cause, we would still discover in the end that not even our heroism is enough to buy us salvation. The hard but simple truth is that the best of the best among us cannot enter Heaven on their own merits, for if we could earn salvation, then Jesus died for nothing.

But we all know that Jesus' death was not in vain because we have all done wrong and that makes us all guilty. That's the problem with sin: It merits punishment. And all our good cannot atone for sinning against God. Sin's punishment is death. A sinless person had to sacrifice his life to make a way for sinful persons to be reconciled to God; and since all of us missed the mark, Jesus, the perfect, sinless Son of God willingly offered to die in our place. He gave His life to purchase our salvation, to make it possible for us to have a relationship with God the Father, to give us eternal life. He alone is enough and receiving Him is as easy as ABC.

A – We **admit** we are a sinner in need of salvation and acknowledge our inability to save ourselves. B – We **believe** Jesus became our sin substitute and paid the price for our sin by dying for us. C – We **confess** Jesus Christ as Lord and acknowledge in our heart that He alone is able to save us and give us a home in Heaven. We confess all our sin to Him and receive Him by faith as our personal Lord and Savior. When it comes to Heaven, nothing we can do will ever be enough if we leave out Jesus.