

In England where I am from we have one channel called Premier. One Pastor was defining sin. He said it was missing the mark. Is that right?

Sin is high treason against the king of heaven (Ps 51:4).¹ There are different kinds of sin.²

Heaven's standard is perfection (Mt 5:48). Men must be perfect to enter into heaven (Re 21:27). They must cleanse themselves from all sin (2 Co 7:1).

Regarding Matthew 5:48³ John MacArthur wrote:

Christ sets an unattainable standard. This sums up what the law itself demanded (James 2:10). Though this standard is impossible to meet, God could not lower it without compromising His own perfection. He who is perfect could not set an imperfect standard of righteousness. The marvelous truth of the gospel is that Christ has met this standard on our behalf....⁴

Missing the mark means to fall short of one's aim. All men born in Adam (Jn 3:6) have fallen short of the glory of God (Ro 5:12). They need a savior (Jn 3:16).

Adrian Rogers wrote:

Now, the very word sin means to miss the mark. That's the Greek word sin. It is missing the mark like an arrow fails to hit the target...

...God made a fish to swim in the sea. You take a fish out of the sea and put him in trees, he's an unhappy fish. You take a bird out of the air and put him beneath the water, he is an unhappy bird. If you do not fulfill the purpose for which you were created, you are never going to have fulfillment in your heart and in your life. You will be a square peg in a round hole, or vice versa. So, knowing your purpose in life is important for fulfillment. Knowing your purpose in life is important for success.⁵

¹ Sin is described as: Corruption of God's good purposes (Dt 32:5 See also Ge 6:11-12; Dt 9:12; 31:29; Jdg 2:19); Doing evil in God's sight (Jn 3:19-20 See also Jdg 2:11; Ps 34:12-16; Pr 8:13; Isa 59:6-7; Mt 12:35 pp Lk 6:45); Ungodliness (Jude 14-15 See also Isa 9:17; 32:6; 1Ti 1:9); Rebellion against God's authority (Isa 30:9 See also Dt 9:7; 1Sa 15:23; Ps 78:40,56; Jer 3:13; Hos 7:13); The breaking or transgression of God's laws (1 Jn 3:4 See also 1Sa 13:13-14; 1Ch 10:13; Ne 9:29; Mic 1:5; 7:18; Ro 2:23; 4:15; 5:14-17; Jas 2:10-11); Straying from the right path (Isa 53:6 See also Ps 58:3; 95:10; 119:10,21,118); Incurring a debt (Mt 6:12 See also Mt 18:21-35); Falling short of a standard (Ro 3:23). The words most commonly used for "sin" in the OT and NT originally signified "missing the mark"; Uncleanliness (Ps 51:2; Isa 1:16 See also Ps 51:7; Heb 9:14). Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. Martin Manser.

² E.g. Sins of omission (Jas 4:17 See also Mt 23:23 pp Lk 11:42; Mt 25:45); Deliberate sins (Lk 12:47 See also Nu 15:30-31; Dt 1:42-43; 17:12; Ps 19:13; Isa 57:17; Ro 1:32); Unintentional sins (Lk 12:48 See also Lev 4:1-5; Nu 15:22-29; Dt 4:41-42; Ac 3:17; 1Ti 1:13) and Sin against the Holy Spirit (Mk 3:29-30 pp Mt 12:31-32 pp Lk 12:10 See also 1 Jn 5:16). Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. Martin Manser.

³ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. The Holy Bible: King James Version (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Mt 5:48). (2009). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ MacArthur, J., Jr., ed. (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 1402). Word Pub.

⁵ Rogers, Adrian. "Why Do You Exist?" *Love Worth Finding Ministries*, Jan. 2023, www.lwf.org/articles/why-do-you-exist.

Jesus came to save people from their sins (Mt 1:21).

Every act will be judged—for unbelievers at the Great White Throne judgement (Re 20:11–15) and for believers at the Bema seat (Ro 14:10, 1 Co 3:10–15; 2 Co 5:9, 10).