

AM Sermon Notes

Text: *Romans 3:23-24*

Title: *"From Tragedy to Triumph"*

Central Truth: Only in and through Christ can we attain a right relationship with God.

I. v. 23: The Tragedy of the Human Condition

1. **Past sin** - Have **sinned** (Greek - *hamartia*) Literally to miss the mark or target. This verb is in the past tense. All people have missed the mark.

Two main ways to think about our sin:

A. **By nature** (*c.f. Romans 5:12*): _____

B. **By choice**: _____

2. **Present sin** - **come** - **fall short** - This verb means to fall behind, to lack or want, to be too late! This verb is the present tense. It emphasizes the present, up-to-date, current, continual nature of our sin.
3. **Perfect standard** - As fallen, sinful human beings we cannot meet, measure up to or qualify, or reach God's standard of righteousness.

II. v. 24: The Triumph of Divine Intervention

Being justified - This is a legal, courtroom term. It means to declare righteous or to pronounce not guilty. Justification includes a double transaction.

Freely - Literally this means a gift! **Redemption** - It means to secure a release by the payment of a ransom price. Jesus' death and shed blood on the cross has bought our release or forgiveness of sin.

Practical Applications:
