The Romans Road

Part 1: Romans 3:23

Context

- This verse is part of the paragraph spanning Romans 3:21-26
- In turn, this paragraph is a summary of Romans 1:18-3:20

  Robert Mounce writes, "We want to earn; God will only give." What is he talking about?

For all have sinned

- Who is "all" here?
  - Jew, gentile, rich, poor, young, old…everyone
  - The key is the first part of this sentence in 3:22b – no difference!

- We have all sinned

  Why is sin such a big deal to God?

  - The Bible uses many words to describe sin (Sin: A Primer)
  - Sin negates a relationship with God
  - Sin has corrupted creation (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:20-21)

And fall short of the glory of God

- Sin is the cause, and this is the effect
- "fall short" is in the present tense, as in "continue to fall short"
  - The original word in Greek can also mean to be left behind or arrive late
- "the glory of God" has been more difficult to nail down
  - This could be about one's relationship with God
  - Some have posited this is our potential "God-likeness" (God's ideal)
  - Others think it has to do with our future glory
    - Note Romans 8:18; Philippians 3:20-21

What are some ways you can bring up Romans 3:23 in a conversation?

What are possible responses you may hear regarding sin from a lost person?