



Sinner, Sinners?! by Ron Thomas

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Are you a sinner, do you live in the midst of saints who are sinners? Be careful how you answer. Look up the English word in your concordance, see how it is used. In the Old Testament (ASV), the words "sinner" or "sinners" is used 25 times. In every case it refers to one in rebellion to the Lord, one with the Lord is not pleased.

Psalm 1:1, 5 represents how this word is understood:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

PSALM 1

1 Blessed is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the
righteous;
6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

What about the New Testament? The words are found 43 times. **James 5:20** and **1 Peter 4:18** are good representatives of how the word is always used:

Let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.
(**James 5:20**)

And if the righteous is scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear? (**1 Peter 4:18**)

It is hard for us not to regard ourselves as sinners because, for some of us, our struggle with sin is greater than it is for others of us. I get it! Nevertheless, the words are used in a way to address or identify one who is unprepared to meet the Lord. Are you unprepared to meet the Lord?

Since we struggle with sin like we do, someone coined a new term to describe those inside and outside the Lord's favor. For those insider, they are identified as sinners, those outside as "alien sinner" (as if they are from Mars). "Alien sinner" is not a Bible term.

— Ron Thomas, Rio Grande, Ohio