

LET'S GO April 16, 2023
Moving Forward with God

Hebrews 12:1b AMPC ...let us run w/ patient endurance & steady, active persistence; the appointed course, of the race that is set before us...

Psalms 37:23 AMP The steps of a good & righteous man are directed & established by the Lord, & He delights in his way (& blesses his path).

***PURSUE JESUS
 EXPERIENCE LIFE
 FULFILL PURPOSE
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE***

GOD CREATES MAN IN HIS LIKENESS

Genesis 1:26a God said, "Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us... 27 So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male & female He created them.

God's original plan & purpose for mankind was for us to be like Him & have an intimate relationship w/ Him.

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

Genesis 3:1-13 *(describe passage)*

When Adam & Eve chose to sin, a barrier was created that broke the relationship we had w/ God.

In the Old Testament, we see man trying to earn forgiveness & restore relationship w/ God. One of the purposes of the law was to show us we couldn't reach God on our own. Being good enough isn't good enough.

Romans 3:28 We're made right w/ God through faith & not by obeying the law.

A SAVIOR IS ON THE WAY

Romans 5:19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God promises to send a Savior who will do what needs to be done to bring us back into relationship w/ Him.

Because Jesus obeyed the Father, we have the benefit of being made righteous or right in God's sight.

GOD BECOMES ONE OF US

John 1:14 The Word became human & made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love & faithfulness (*grace & truth*). And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one & only Son.

John 3:16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one & only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

What was God's motive for sending Jesus to us? The Father sent His Son to live among us. God knew this was the perfect & only way to bring us back to Him.

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER

John 14:6 (...*I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life...*)

Acts 4:12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

There are many people & churches that believe there are other ways we can be saved. But when it comes to a relationship w/ God, the Bible makes it clear that only Jesus can bring us to God, because only Jesus could do what needed to be done.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER IS RESTORED

2 Corinthians 5:21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right w/ God through Christ.

Romans 10:9 (...*confess/openly declare that Jesus is Lord = saved*)

Jesus' willingness to come to earth & pay the penalty for our sin made it possible for us to be reunited w/ our Father. Jesus removed the barrier that sin had put between us & God.

IN CHRIST, WE ARE FULLY ACCEPTED BY GOD

1 Corinthians 1:30 God has united you w/ Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right w/ God; He made us pure & holy, & He freed us from sin.

If Jesus is our Lord, the Father no longer sees us through our works & what we've done. He sees us through the finished work of the cross & what Jesus did for us. He sees us pure & holy, & He accepts us into His presence.

JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO OUR GREATEST NEEDS

Romans 8:15a ...you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, Abba, Father. 16 For His Spirit joins w/ our spirit to affirm that we're God's children. 17 Since we're His children, we're His heirs. In fact, together w/ Christ we're heirs of God's glory.

By accepting the Son of God into our hearts, we become children of God. This allows us to enjoy all the benefits of being heirs of our heavenly Father.

Jesus is our Provider, the One who has brought all we need for this life & the life to come. He has provided...

Love; Forgiveness; Hope; Purpose; Strength; Peace; Healing; Joy; etc.

PURSUE JESUS

1 Timothy 6:11b AMP ...aim at & pursue righteousness; true goodness, moral conformity to the character of God, godliness (*the fear of God*), faith, love, steadfastness, & gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith in the conflict w/ evil...

GOD PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO KNOW JESUS

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus' sacrifice gives us security in death. We have confidence that physical death is simply a necessary step into an eternal existence in the very presence of God.