

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: GOD is here.

Week 8: The Best "Here" We Ever Had

PSALM 84:1-2, 10.

Can a person like you be in the place where GOD is? In other words, is this glorious, holy, wonderful GOD here with you or only over there with them?

SIN TURNS HERE INTO THERE

Separation, that is what sin does. Whenever we replace love with sin, it separates people.

Sin is the splitting maul that breaks apart the unity of GOD's people.

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

ISAIAH 59:2. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God . . ."

Death, in the biblical sense, is a separation. Paul, the guy who gushed about GOD's bottomless love, said: **ROMANS 6:23**. "For the wages of sin is death . . ."

It only takes one sin to separate.

ROMANS 1:21, 25. The heart of sin is a refusal to glorify GOD as GOD, an absurd claim that GOD is not a big deal.

Sin silences praise and saves its worship for the things of this world.

You will never see how serious your sin is until you grasp the glory of GOD (**LUKE 15:12-13, 28-31**).

We are not content to just be with GOD. His presence doesn't satisfy us. We either rebel and run off in reckless living or we get really religious, grudgingly obeying but secretly stewing about the "young calves" we never get. But both lifestyles are supremely offensive. Because they both imply that GOD is not enough to make us happy.

The essence of hell is the absence of GOD's presence (MATTHEW 25:41). Hell is what we feel when GOD is completely gone.

No wonder Jesus said, **MARK 8:36.** "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

Everyone who isn't washed and clean and holy cannot walk into the holy presence of GOD. Which is why we need someone to wash us clean and make us holy. Which is why we all need Jesus.

- **JESUS LIVED.**
- **JESUS DIED. (COLOSSIANS 2:13-14)**
- **JESUS ROSE**

Because GOD separated death from Jesus, life with GOD can never be separated from you.

MARK 15:37-38. The temple curtain was a silent sermon that preached, "GOD is here, and you have to stay out there." From top to bottom, He ripped apart the reasons for our separation.