

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: GOD is here.

Week 9: What Most Christians Miss

I don't think the final goal of the Scriptures is for people to believe Jesus lived, died, and rose for them. Jesus said **John 14:6**.

Christians miss the greater point of that passage, namely, that Jesus is the way "to the Father." The entire reason He came to earth, lived, died, and rose was to get sinners back into GOD's presence.

Jesus wants more for you. He wants you to come to the Father, to find life in His name, not just on the day of your death, but on every day of your life.

JOHN 20:31. John wants you to enjoy the fact that GOD is here.

HEBREWS 10:19-22. The author of Hebrews wants us to draw near to GOD.

So many of the biblical terms describing the work of Jesus are essentially about getting you into the presence of GOD.

- **Jesus forgave you.** So that a sinless you could walk into the holy presence of GOD.
- **Jesus saved you.** When Jesus saved you from your sins, He rescued you from a grave spiritual danger.
- **Jesus justified you.** Because guilty sinners are locked out of GOD's presence while the justified are free to walk out of court and be with GOD.
- **Jesus purified you.** Because only the pure in heart can ascend to the holy place where GOD is (**Psalm 15**).
- **Jesus redeemed you.** Unless you belonged to GOD, He would not take you home as His precious people to live with Him forever.
- **Jesus sanctified you.** Jesus made you wonderfully different when He gave His perfect life to you as a gift.
- **Jesus reconciles you.** This means that the doormat of heaven no longer reads, "No trespassing, sinner!" but "Welcome home, my child!"

The verbs of salvation are never the final blessing. Rather, they are gracious ways for you to get to the glorious end—GOD. GOD is what makes salvation worth celebrating.

Jesus forgives you so completely you could confidently walk into the presence of GOD.

Life, in the Bible, is all about being with GOD, so life points to "a union." The phrase eternal life means, "to be with GOD forever."

Eternal life starts now! The here-ness of GOD is not waiting for my final breath. It is as present as the breath presently in my lungs!

JOHN 3:36; JOHN 5:24; JOHN 6:47. Jesus reminded them of the life that was already theirs, that had already begun when they first believed.

JOHN 17:3. True, satisfying, eternal life is knowing GOD

A CLOSING BLESSING

When do people's faces light up at the sight of you? When do you look into one of those eyebrows-raised, eyes-shining, smile-beaming expressions?

Not with strangers. You'll find blank faces, bored faces, and strange faces. But not shining faces.

Not with enemies either. They have scowls or wrinkles or narrowed eyes. But not shining faces.

No, **a shining face requires two things—knowledge and delight**. When I know you and delight in you, then my face lights up.

So, go in peace today. Live with such satisfied hearts that you are freed to serve GOD with gladness. And receive His famous blessing: **NUMBERS 6:24-26**.

Because of Jesus, GOD blesses and keeps you.
Because of Jesus, GOD is here