



The Big Picture of What God Has Always Wanted

by *Charles F. Boyd*

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WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Did you know that God wants you to become one of His friends? To live in friendship with God is the best way to live. Do you remember what Jesus said you need to do to live with God now and forever? (Believe in Him.)

TRUST

What do you think it means to believe in someone who makes you a promise? It means to trust her to do what she says she'll do. It's easy to believe in someone who made a promise to you and kept it. If a friend promises to come to your birthday party, you feel you can trust her if she has kept her other promises. If you didn't trust her, well, you probably wouldn't be very close friends, would you?

While we've all failed to deliver on our word at some time or another, God always keeps His promises:

- In the beginning, God created people to love Him and enjoy Him forever. But He told them that if they did not trust Him, they would die and be separated from Him.
- Later, God promised Abraham that his family would become a great nation. That nation, Israel, still exists today.
- And after Abraham died, God promised through His prophets that He would send someone who would rescue us from our selfishness and death. About 2,000 years ago. God made good on all those promises by sending His Son, Jesus, to show us how to become God's friends again. Jesus promises that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. He promises to forgive our sins. So to believe in Jesus means to turn from our sin and selfishness and to trust Him to keep His promise to forgive our sins. It means to take Him at His Word.

FORGIVENESS

By dying on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve, and he made forgiveness possible. Then by coming back to life, Jesus proved that He has the power to keep His promise to give us eternal life. Jesus has done everything that needs to be done for us to live in friendship with God forever.

PRAYER

Do you want to become a friend of Jesus? If you are ready, you can tell God you believe in Jesus right now. Dear God, I want to be your friend now and forever. Thank you for sending Jesus to forgive me of all my selfishness. Lord Jesus, I do believe in You. I believe you died for me and came back to life. I believe in Your promise to give me eternal life. I want You to know that I am turning from my selfishness and trusting You now as my Savior. Thank you for making it possible for me to live in friendship with God now and forever.—Amen