

How to begin a relationship with God

(scripture taken from the NIV)

1. Recognize that God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for you.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life

“I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”- Galatians 2:20

2. Repent of your sin. This means to admit to God you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sins and with His help, turn away from your sins.

“...but unless you repent, you too will all perish.” – Luke 13:3

“The kingdom God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”- Mark 1:15

3. Believe and Trust in Him as your Savior. This means that you accept God’s offer of love, mercy, and forgiveness. This means that you trust Jesus Christ as your only Savior. This means that you are free from struggling and trying to save yourself by your good works, baptism, confirmation, church membership or attendance, and that you rely on Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!” – Romans 6:23

“For by grace you have been saved through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8, 9

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

4. Confess Christ. This means that you will not be ashamed to let others know that you are a Christian and have a relationship with God. When you trust in Christ, you should let someone else know about it.

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

“That is you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

YOU CAN NOW BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

Lord, I admit that I need you, I ask you to forgive and set me free from sin and death. I believe that Jesus died to provide forgiveness for my sins to restore my relationship with You, and to fill me with His joy. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ to come into my life as Savior and Lord. From this time on, help me to live in a loving, obedient relationship with you. Thank You, Lord!

If you prayed to the Lord and genuinely meant what you prayed, please share your decision with Pastor or someone else you know who trusts in Jesus. They would be thrilled to hear of your decision today!

The Hidden God– A Study in Esther

March 17, 2019

What money can't buy

Pastor Scott Sheets

Esther 1:1-12

Money *can* buy...

P _____

P _____

P _____

Money *can't* buy...

P _____

Conclusion:

(All services are recorded and available online at www.riversideefc.com)

Esther 1:1-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could have an material item in the world, what would it be an why?
2. Based on Esther 1:1-11, did King Xerxes seem to lack any material goods? How does it seem Xerxes uses goods to find satisfaction in his life?
3. In what ways do people use material goods today to try and find satisfaction?
4. Why do material goods fall short in giving contentment? (Look at Philippians 4:10-13)
5. Read Hebrews 11:24-26. What luxuries might have Moses experienced as the son of Pharaoh's daughter? Why did that not satisfy him?
6. What does the Hebrews passage say Moses focused on instead of royal luxury? How would that apply to us today?
7. Read Esther 1:12. In light of all the explanation of King Xerxes' glory in verses 1-11, does the king's reaction surprise you? Why or why not?
8. Read Isaiah 26:3. How have you experienced that truth in your life?
9. Share any other thoughts, questions, or comments you might have.

1Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, **2**in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the citadel, **3**in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, **4**while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. **5**And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace. **6**There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods^a and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones. **7**Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king. **8**And drinking was according to this edict: "There is no compulsion." For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired. **9**Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that belonged to King Ahasuerus.

10On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, **11**to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown,^b in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. **12**But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him.