

Sunday, December 4, 2011
THE REST OF THE STORY!

ACT ONE IN GOD'S STORY OF HISTORY IS GOD CREATING MAN TO LOVE HIM!

Ephesians 1—"Long before He laid down the earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation. All living things will thank You, Lord."

One way God shows His love to us is by giving us the capacity to enjoy pleasure!

"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

ACT TWO IN GOD'S STORY OF HISTORY IS THAT MAN WALKED AWAY FROM GOD'S LOVE.

This could be called 'The Path Out of Paradise!'

The first step in walking away from God is PRESUMPTION.

- Some circumstance in our life can cause us to question God
- Some command in the Bible can cause us to question God.

Presumption is questioning God.

The second step in walking away from God is ARROGANCE.

Here's where I start wanting to 'be God.'

GOD IS GOD—AND YOU'RE NOT!!

The third step in walking away from God is TEMPTATION.

Temptation is when I start to trust my feelings more than what I know is right!

The fourth step in walking away from God is HOSTILITY.

This is where we start to get mad at God!

"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

ACT THREE IN GOD'S STORY OF HISTORY IS CHRISTMAS!

In act three, God sent Jesus to woo us back to Him.

I John 4—"This is how God showed His love for us. He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through him."

Jesus: "I came to find and restore the lost."

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The first step back to God is simply to RECEIVE His gift of love.

God didn't just SAY He loved us—He SHOWED it—He PROVED it!!

The second step back to God is BELIEVING His promise.

The promise is "...that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life!"

To 'believe' in Jesus means to trust in Him, to rely on Him, it means that we commit our lives to Him!

"God was in Christ offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world."

ACT FOUR IN GOD'S STORY OF HISTORY INVOLVES OUR CHOICE—WE MUST CHOOSE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT GOD'S LOVE!

Ephesians 1:5—"God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."

ACT FIVE IN GOD'S STORY OF HISTORY IS ETERNITY!