

Going to the Show

John 20:19-30

Is God a baseball fan? **YES!**

Genesis 1:1, In the ... [big inning] ... God created the heavens and the earth....

1. Believers are under **contract**.

And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."—John 20:22

The Holy Spirit is God's down payment to believers.

The Holy Spirit is **Jesus** in us. —Colossians 1:27

The Holy Spirit is a down payment of **eternal life**. —2 Corinthians 5:5

The Holy Spirit **seals** us as children of God. —2 Corinthians 1:22

2. Believers have **made** the team.

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." —John 20:25

The Fearful and Doubters need not wonder if they have been accepted.

- Believers need **not doubt**.

John 20:27, *"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."*

- Believers need **not fear**.

1 John 4:18, *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment."*

- Believers have **arrived**.

John 5:24, *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

- Believers seek to **become** like Christ.

Philippians 3:12, *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."*

3. **Every** believer goes to the Show.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." —John 20:29

Sports seem to separate and elevate.

Stephen D. Keener, President & CEO of Little League Baseball and Softball, writes,

Of the 5 million Little Leaguers in the USA each year:

- 400,000 will play high school ball.
- 1,500 will be drafted by the Majors.
- 100 will make the Big leagues.
- 1 will make the Baseball Hall of Fame.

(**1 in 50,000** make it to the Majors, **1 in 5 million** will make the Hall of Fame)

(An American's chances of getting struck by lightning are **1 in 600,000**.)

Jesus Christ unites and equalizes.

- The ground is **level** at the cross.

Acts 20:21, *"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."*

- Persons of all races and incomes stand **condemned** before a holy God.

Romans 3:23, *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

- All persons can be **forgiven** in the cross.

Romans 1:16, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."*

Conclusion:

Our acceptance is based on God's performance, Christ's sacrifice; not on our works.

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

In sports, only winners receive prizes. —1 Corinthians 9:24

In Christ, every believer receives a reward. —Colossians 3:24

God demonstrates His love for us in Jesus Christ. —Romans 5:8

Memory Verse:

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." —John 20:27