

# Coach House Church **BEACONS**

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## **I AM FOR JESUS**

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**28TH AUGUST 2020**

I remember standing, one evening back in the 1970s, talking to my youth leader in the church building that had become my spiritual home after my coming to Christ not so long before. And I said to him, "I am for Jesus". This incident has always stayed in my mind because I sincerely meant it.

On another occasion some years later, when I was at work, my boss, who had professed faith in Christ, was talking to me about something unrelated either to work or to our shared faith, when the Spirit spoke to me quite clearly saying, "Don't trust him". I was surprised and a bit shaken by this. And it was to be a few more years before I saw why the Lord had said this to me: my ex-boss (we had both moved on in our working lives) renounced his faith in Jesus and did something terrible, which I won't go into. Though to be honest, I think there were times when I saw warning signs of his apostasy developing. I still think of him from time to time, wondering what has become of him. (He ended our friendship).

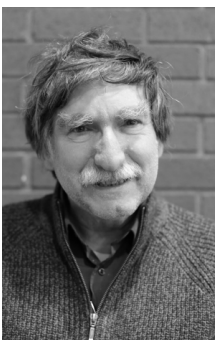
In 2 Timothy 4:10 Paul mentions Demas, "Who has forsaken me, having loved this present world..." Then there was Judas who betrayed his Lord to His enemies; Peter who denied Jesus three times; all the disciples who deserted Jesus when He was arrested – though John appears to have followed at a safe distance, and eventually stands at the foot of the cross with Jesus' mother, Mary, and the other women. We know that all the disciples were restored, except Judas, after Jesus' resurrection.

The point I want to make here is about being faithful to Jesus. It is through Him alone that we have been reconciled to God. It is He alone who bore our sins on the cross, who suffered such appalling physical agony in the flogging He received from the soldiers, and whilst nailed to the cross. It is His blood alone that has redeemed us from death and eternal separation from God. And whilst on the cross

He, who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. And He suffered separation from the Father for the first time ever, whilst on the cross, so that we might have our separation from the Father ended. Jesus is worthy of our faithfulness to Him for all these reasons and more. He has promised never to forsake us nor to leave us, no matter what we might pass through. Not only this, but He has made us into a new people: His people – God's people. Jesus is like no other person in history, and whilst He is historical, He is also very much in the present, and still to come! You may remember that in an earlier Beacon I talked about meeting God. Well I read the testimony of another person who had met Jesus, and who described Him as being the most ancient and yet the most modern person they had ever met!

I'd like to encourage you always to walk with Jesus, there is no one like Him. He is an ever-faithful friend who does not leave us. He is the Good Shepherd who is guiding His flock to our home in heaven; His is the face we should long to see when our days on earth are ended by death; He has defeated death, has been there already and is waiting at the end of our road. We should also have that expectancy that at any moment all of us will suddenly hear that heavenly shofar sound and find ourselves clothed in resurrection bodies standing joyfully before Him in the sky!

There are warnings in Scripture against apostasy, for example in 1 Timothy 4 and in Hebrews 6. Warnings about turning from Jesus, since only in Him are we safe. Noah's Ark was a type of Jesus since it brought all aboard safely through the storm of God's judgement. But everyone had to stay on the Ark! Let's all stay in Jesus. Let's pray: Dear Lord Jesus, You gave Your life for us to bring us to God; You bore the awful wrath of God for us so that we don't have to. Please keep our hearts faithful to You. Help us to walk with You by faith, having not yet seen You, for You said blessed are such. And at last please receive us into Your presence for evermore. Amen.



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