

# Coach House Church

# BEACONS

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## SAVED FROM DEATH

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11TH MARCH 2021

Sin hurts us. It always hurts us. There is a story about a man who had parked his motorhome at a campsite near Newquay. One night, someone was trying to steal fuel from his motorhome. He put the hose in and sucked hard. At this point, the motorhome owner heard a noise and went outside to see a man throwing up. Turns out, the thief had put the hose in the waste tank instead of the fuel tank.

Gross! Drinking sewage.

That's a good picture of sin. Sin is like drinking sewage. We think we are going to get away with it but it always hurts us.

In Ephesians 2, God describes what sin does to us:

"It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat." (Eph. 2:1-3)

What an accusation. Because of sin, we were spiritually dead, separated from the life of God, conformed to the world around us, influenced by the devil, given to self-centredness and self-indulgence, and subject to God's holy wrath against sin.

This is the gravity of the human condition when we live apart from Jesus. Clearly, we don't need a self-improvement plan, a motivational seminar, a bit of religion, or to try a little harder.

No, the disease—sin—is far too serious. We need God to intervene and rescue us by his grace. We need a Saviour, desperately.

That's exactly what God gave us. He sent a Saviour who would die in our place, eradicate all our sin, guilt, shame, and death, and give us eternal life.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

What a Saviour.

The cure starts with God's love. The entire spiritual life, all that God has done for you in Christ, starts with God's great love for you. This is the fresh spring and the display of the spiritual life.

It does not start with me. It does not begin with my goodness, my cleverness, my devotion, or my churchmanship. God's love for us, for you, is pure, strong, and tender. Do you know his love? I do not mean if you know it mentally, I mean if you know it with your heart. Do you feel loved by God?

I hope so.

God doesn't love you because you are so lovable, but because he is so loving: He is outrageous in his love for you, relentless, uninhibited in his love for you.

He is gracious, personal and emotional in his love for you.

This is God's love for you. Receive it, believe it, embrace it, enjoy it.

In the gospel, we discover we are far worse off than we thought, and far more loved than we ever dreamed.

In the coming ages, to human and angelic beings throughout the cosmos, you will forever be an example of God's grace.

Grace is God's lavish love to sinners. Grace is God's abundant forgiveness to the undeserving. Grace is God's outrageous mercy for the desperate. Grace is God's free gift to sinners. Grace is God's outlandish love to rebels. Grace is God's forgiving tenderness to us. There's nothing like it. It is incomparable.

The Bible begins with grace and ends with grace. Grace should be the message of our lips and the song of our hearts. We rest in grace, we revel in grace, and we glory in grace. It's the theme of the Bible. It was the song of Paul's heart. It is our only hope.

In the book "What's So Amazing About Grace", Philip Yancey recounts an anecdote on grace:

*During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what, if any, belief was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities. Incarnation? Other religions had different versions of gods appearing in human form. Resurrection? Again, other religions had accounts of return from death. The debate went on for some time until C.S. Lewis wandered into the room.*

*"What's the rumpus about?" he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions. Lewis responded, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace." After some discussion, the delegates had to agree.*

The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and Muslim code of law—each of these offer a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional.

If you have received God's free gift of life, then you are completely accepted, you are eternally forgiven, you are totally secure in God's love.

That's grace. If you haven't, find someone to pray with you, or just drop [leadership@coachhousechurch.org](mailto:leadership@coachhousechurch.org) a message and one of the fantastic team here will be more than happy to guide you in the best decision you will ever make.

Believe it. Enjoy it. Celebrate it.

Gods Grace and Love is the absolute Best



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