

# Coach House Church

# BEACONS

---

## GOD'S REPAIR SHOP

---

29TH MARCH 2021

Jamie and I watched the TV program called the repair shop this week. In the program the experts took items that used to be precious, whether that be toys or trophies or even a bell. These things had been broken, whether by accident or just through the course of time. The experts job was to fix them and restore them to their former glory, they wanted to give them back their purpose and shine and potential.

This is what God is doing with us. He is making us into something new. Ephesians 2: 1-10 describes it like this: Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. \* You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has

created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

God created us in the first place and made us exactly how He wanted us. And He knows us better than anyone else. But we were born into a world full of sin that corrupted us. \* We also had a part to play in this sin and we have all chosen to go the wrong way at some point in our lives. We all choose to sin. And the problem is that God is so pure that He can't be around sin. He can't touch it. The consequences of what we do when we choose to walk away from Him pain Him so much. He is rightfully angry about sin and hates it when any of us do it.

But God didn't want us to stay that way. He didn't want the story to end like that. He wanted to have us back as His children and there was nothing we could do to fix ourselves. We were dead in our sins and there is nothing a dead person can do to make themselves alive again. So Jesus came to the earth to die for us. He came to save us from ourselves, to fix the mess that we got ourselves into.

The passage says twice - it is only by God's grace you have been saved. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. All we can do is accept God's grace. We cannot boast about our salvation because we haven't earned it. We can't be show offs when we start living the way God would have us live. We can't win any prizes for being a "better Christian". The only reason we can live as we do is because we have the Holy Spirit with us and we are being made anew by God. It isn't a credit to us.

This isn't an excuse to keep on sinning. We need to do our part, resisting temptation as best we can and avoiding situations where we might be tempted. We need to give God's grace every opportunity to work in our lives. We need to work alongside Him.

So God is making us new to do the good things He planned for us long ago. God has plans for you and I. He has things that we are meant to do in our futures. He has places He wants us to be. So if we are to live up to our God given potential we need to be listening for what God wants us to do and where He wants us to be. We need to follow where He leads. The life God has for you is the best it could ever get. His way is exciting and we get to see His plans unfold in front of us. \*

This might get us thinking, what is it that we are meant to do? I think this will look different for each of us as we all have different lives and different talents. But one thing I think we are all meant to do is bring others into a living relationship with God, to show them what we have. And if anyone chooses to turn and walk with God, they will be saved. Romans 1:16 says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" \* We have all been saved and we can bring others into that grace. We need to stand up for what we believe and not be ashamed of the gospel, even if others are trying to make us feel that way.

In the repair shop program, \* most of the objects needed sanding down or needed parts removing before they could be made whole again. This would have been a painful process if they had feelings. Sometimes what God has to do in refining us is painful. James 1:2-4 says it like this: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

So we shouldn't despair when we go through trials. In fact we should rejoice because God is refining us. He is getting us closer to what we were meant to be and what we will become when we die and go to be with Him forever. God should have the glory from us, whatever situation we are in.

God is making us new. He is making me new, which is an amazing thought. I am becoming more like Jesus every day and it is my ambition to keep doing that till I die. God has plans for us to do and we will be able to achieve them best if we let Him lead and let Him change us. And the hard times we go through are just to make us better. God uses everything for our good. So trust Him and follow Him and bring others to Him.



---

## BEKAH BAKER



*Coach House Church*

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn