

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## DESERVE

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30TH JUNE 2021

This last weekend i had the absolute pleasure of going again to see Noah, the oldest of our boys play in the Tytherington Juniors 5v5 Festival. Noah and His team mates ably managed by Mark, Chris and Cooke managed to get to the semi-finals. There they had a very comfortable win with Noah bagging 4, and then onto the final they went. It was a tough game, but after a bit of towing and growing, Noah managed His best Bruno Fernandes impression and managed to feed a pass to Harry who scored a great goal to make Marple Athletic Reds the winners of the Tythy Fivers Cup 2021.

It was fantastic morning, parents kids and coaches all pulling together for the one aim to win the cup.

Why do I tell you this? well, on the way home I'd said to Noah He could have a treat lunch. So when we got home to pick up Bekah and Eli, Noah piped..."We're having a treat lunch because I deserve it"...

Now you can imagine our response. "No mate you don't deserve it, you've earned it, but dont deserve it..."

And this got me thinking... We don't deserve what God does for us. We really don't. We spend all of our lives doing things wrong, always not getting right, but still, God says here - have Eternal Life. I sent my Son Jesus to die for you. He now bridges the gap, He stands in the way and died for all the wrong things you've done.

Isn't that amazing, its really is, but we have to be repentant. We have to say sorry and look to step forward to a more right day of living.

Lets take a quick look at the two thieves that were crucified alongside Jesus there in a place called Golgotha, translating literally means "place of the skull"

So there are these two men, being strapped to crosses, just like Jesus. Thief no.1 is unrepentant, and hurled insults at Jesus "Aren't you the Messiah, you should be saving yourself, come on big boy, show us what you've got"... Totally unrepentant. He hangs there along side Jesus and goes at Him. The bible doesn't really go much further into this but you can imagine this bloke basically giving Jesus both barrels. Hurling abuse, a torrent of bad language and more besides, this guy just has no idea who He is talking to.

Now Thief No.2 is a little different. He asks "Dont you fear God?, since you are under the same sentence as us? Were being punished justly, and we are getting what we deserve, But You've done nothing wrong"... This guy, can totally see Justice. He sees the right from wrong, the good and the bad. My view is that He see's Jesus and realises He really is the Son of God. He's asking Jesus to find Him, when Jesus returns to Heaven. and Jesus responds with this simple statement - :Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" - There it is - a simple but powerful statement. This thief deserves death but Jesus gives Him life.

God does not treat us as we deserve. We have all fallen short, we have all done things wrong, but God still gives us life. We deserve death. Lets not walk on egg shells anymore. We deserve it. We deserve to burn in the fiery pits, for the rest of eternity. When was the last time someone said to you, "You deserve better"? Or when did you last think, I don't deserve this...?

These are common statements in today's culture. We're told by the media, and by society, that we're entitled to certain outcomes—and we're easily convinced, for this belief runs in our blood. At the root of everything, from our private discontentment and grumbling to our public complaints, is a sense that we're good and deserving and can judge our circumstances rightly. But we aren't, and we can't, because sin has corrupted everything. We're naturally blind to a right estimation of ourselves, and our sense of justice is skewed—which means we don't actually want what we deserve.

We will see that we have far more than we deserve but only when we grasp the undeservedness of the gospel; and we will only look at ourselves and our world rightly, through God's lens, when we respond to His kindness to us in Christ.

When we don't acknowledge God's overwhelming holiness and our indebtedness to Him as His creation; when we rebel and sin against Him; or, when we hate His way and desire our own, we offend God, and we become blinded from seeing what we truly deserve for our sin.

What does our offensive sinfulness permit before God? His right and just anger:

But God shows His anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness (Romans 1:18)

When we push back the truth by worshiping anything but God, even ourselves, we receive what our heathen worship deserves. This feels harsh to us—but is it? If the weight of the offence directly relates to the offended party, then shouldn't the response also correspond?

What we actually deserve is to be judged for our sin—we're entitled to nothing else. If we want to call God's judgment for sin undeserved, then what should we call His gospel? Isn't the good news that God's perfectly holy Son bore God's wrath in our place completely unmerited? Isn't the gift of His righteousness in exchange for our sin just that—a gift? Yes, and praise God for it! In Jesus, we're given what we do not deserve so we'll never get what we do deserve apart from Him.

"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (1 John 4:10)

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[e] so that we could be made right with God through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1a)

So what should our response be?

Now, as new creations, as we gaze upon God's glory in the gospel, He renews our minds. Suddenly, the circumstances our flesh wanted to grumble and complain about are put in their proper place. And then we're

able to thank God with grateful hearts for all He's done and provided in His Son.

Suddenly, our desire to share this undeserved, good news with others heightens, as we hold out this amazing gift we've been granted by faith in Christ. Or, suddenly, we're compelled to give ourselves for the One who gave himself for us. Even when the giving is costly. Even when it means being misunderstood. We deserve nothing—but we've been given everything. What good news! "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" (Romans 8:32).

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We dont get what we deserve..!!! - Hallelujah



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