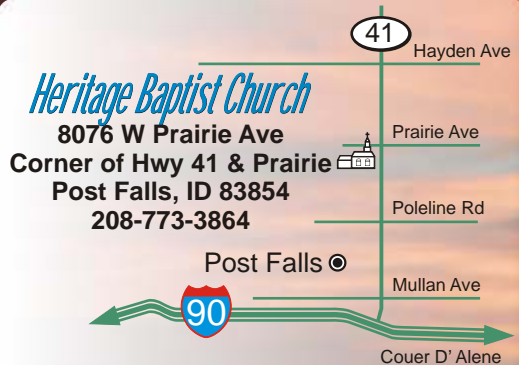


this opportunity to accept His free offer of salvation through His Son. Will you receive it?

You may have God's *free gift* of eternal life right now by personally receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. The Bible says, *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (John 1:12). *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Rom. 10:9, 13).

Here is a simple prayer you may pray: "Dear God. Be merciful to me a sinner. I know I don't deserve to go to heaven because of my sin. But I believe the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and is alive today. I trust Him now as my one and only Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving my soul. Amen."

Please let us know if you have just prayed that prayer so we can rejoice with you!



At HBC you will find straightforward Bible preaching and teaching that will encourage spiritual growth and maturity for you and your family.
~Tim Haveman, Pastor

TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday School	10:00	AM
Sunday Worship	11:00	AM
Sunday Evening	6:00	PM
Wed. - Bible & Prayer	7:00	PM

Better than I deserve.



“How are you doing?”

“I'm doing better than I deserve.”

Yes, that's right! The truth is, I'd hate to think of what I'd get if I got what I deserved!

The word *deserve* means “to be worthy of” (*Websters*). It is only found two times in the Bible:

- Job 11:6 ...*God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.*
- Ezra 9:13 ...*God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve...*

Each verse conveys the idea of someone deserving worse than what they are getting because of their iniquities (sins).

If I got what I deserved for my sins, I would be burning in hell. You may be thinking, “You must have committed some very serious sins!” It doesn't matter how bad a person's sins are, or how many sins they have committed—it only takes *one* sin to land a person in hell.

We are all sinners regardless of the number of sins we have committed—“*For there is NO DIFFERENCE: For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:22-23).

For God to be righteous, sin must be punished. God has placed a penalty on sin—“*The wages of sin is death*” (Rom. 6:23). There two kinds of deaths mentioned in the Bible: (1) Physical death of the body. (2) The second death “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is THE SECOND DEATH. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*” (Rev. 20:14-15).

But, here is the GOOD NEWS—God is also MERCIFUL! “*It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed...*” (Lam. 3:22). The only reason we are not in hell right now is because of the mercy and love of God.

King David said it this way, “*He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities*” (Ps. 103:10). God has not dealt with us according to our sins because He has already dealt with Another after our sins—The Lord Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself upon Calvary's cross. Jesus took the punishment you and I deserved! “*Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...*” (1 Pet. 3:18).

Anyone who goes to heaven, goes by God's grace. Grace is the “unmerited, undeserved favor of God.” The Bible says, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph. 2:8-9). Eternal life is “*the GIFT of God*” that comes only through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23).

Dear friend, as long as you think you deserve God's favor and blessings, you will never see heaven. God in His mercy hasn't yet given you *what you deserve* (hell); and in His grace, He has given you *what you don't deserve* (this opportunity to be saved).

Remember, the word *deserve* means “to be worthy of.” Jacob admitted, “*I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies...*” (Genesis 32:10). Any blessing, or restraint of judgment is because of the grace and mercy of a loving God!

You have a choice—Do you want what you rightfully deserve (judgment for your sins in hell), or would you rather receive what you don't deserve (salvation in Jesus Christ)? God has been merciful to you by giving you