

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY
5PM Walking Soccer
7PM Social Soccer

TUESDAY
9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY
9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY
3:30PM Youth

FRIDAY
9:30AM Playgroup
4:00pm Kids Ignite

Home Groups

BETTER TOGETHER

If you would like to know more, Contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18th Lucas & Bertha
19th Kristen
22nd Lacey & Catherine D

WHAT HAPPENED TO DEMAS?

When the Apostle Paul introduces us to Demas, he refers to him as his ‘co-worker’ in sharing the gospel ((Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:14). He was obviously passionate about sharing the gospel and serving God. There was no way you could work closely on the mission fields with Paul unless you were willing to “choose to share in the oppression of God’s people, instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.” (Hebrews 11:25) And yet tragically, something happened to Demas. In some of his last words before being executed Paul expressed his heartbreak over Demas. “Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica.” (2 Timothy 4:10). Maybe Demas feared being executed with Paul and fled to safety. Or maybe he succumbed to immorality. Or maybe he simply gave in to the relentless temptation of a more comfortable, prosperous life in the large, cosmopolitan, pluralistic, wealthy, culturally diverse city of Thessalonica. Whatever it was, Paul saw it as embracing the world. Having once fought alongside Paul in kingdom battles, Demas then decided to side with the enemy. While we don’t know the exact details of what happened to Demas, we should see his story as a warning to us. **“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)** Our enemy is very real and very cunning. He threatens, lies and seduces. And even those who start strong in their faith, work hard in ministry and are leaders in the church like Demas, are susceptible to his deception.

Let us then be on our guard. When we are feeling the powerful pull of worldly temptation we need to take Paul’s exhortation very seriously. **“So run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you...” (1 Timothy 6:11-12)** We don’t know what finally happened with Demas. I hope that he repented in the end and received the promised mercy that comes from the grace of God. **“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us all from wickedness.” (1 John 1:9)** Perhaps you may have let your guard down and been seduced by the things of this world. If so, then that doesn’t have to be the end of the story. Whatever may have happened in the past, we can all find forgiveness in Christ and be restored. Then, relying on His power, we should all resolve to live for Him, and not this world, for all the days of our life on earth.

God bless, Pastor John.

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- * Give thanks that we are able to return together in worshipping on Sunday.
- * Pray for our music team as they start to come back together and lead us in singing praise to the Lord.
- * Pray for those looking for work at this time.
- * Pray that our hearts will be more focused on God and eternity, rather than on the pleasures and things of this world.
- * Pray for Care Outreach as it continues to send teams to the outback. Give thanks for the lives they are blessing and for the souls they are helping to bring to the Lord.

WE'RE BACK!

Welcome to everyone as we come back together to worship this morning. It has been 22 Sundays since we last gathered together on 15th March, and even though it is still a bit different today, we are blessed to be back. Please remember that we have an official COVID safety plan and this means that we need to abide by social distancing and cleaning protocols that we are all very familiar with. despite the differences and the extra protocols we trust this morning is still a great time of blessing for everyone.

NEW PREACHING & HOME GROUP SERIES

As we mentioned last week we will be starting a new 5 week preaching/Bible study series on Elijah. Last week we indicated that we would start the series on Sunday 6th September, but we have decided to bring the start date forward to Sunday 30th of August. The study books will be available next Sunday at a cost of \$7.

WEEKEND OFF

Pastor John and Shauna will be away next weekend as they travel up to Townsville to see to visit family and celebrate their son Leighton’s birthday.

HOME GAME FOR SOCCER

Next Saturday 22nd is our next home game for soccer (only 3 more to go). With Pastor John away we will need some extra volunteers to be ground official and to help set up. Please let Pastor John know if you can help out.

SOS BUS TRIP TO CABOOLTURE HISTORICAL VILLAGE

This exciting adventure will happen on Thursday 17th September and will go from 9.30am to 3.00pm. (Please note that this is a change of date to what was previously advertised). The cost will be \$20 and include a Devonshire morning tea. You will need to BYO lunch or buy from the café. Please let Anneli know if you are interested ASAP as numbers on bus are limited. Also, please set aside OCTOBER 29TH for PARROTS IN PARADISE (Glasshouse Mountains cost \$35 morning tea & Lunch) more details later.

NOTES

"The Love God Hates" (1 John 2:12-17)

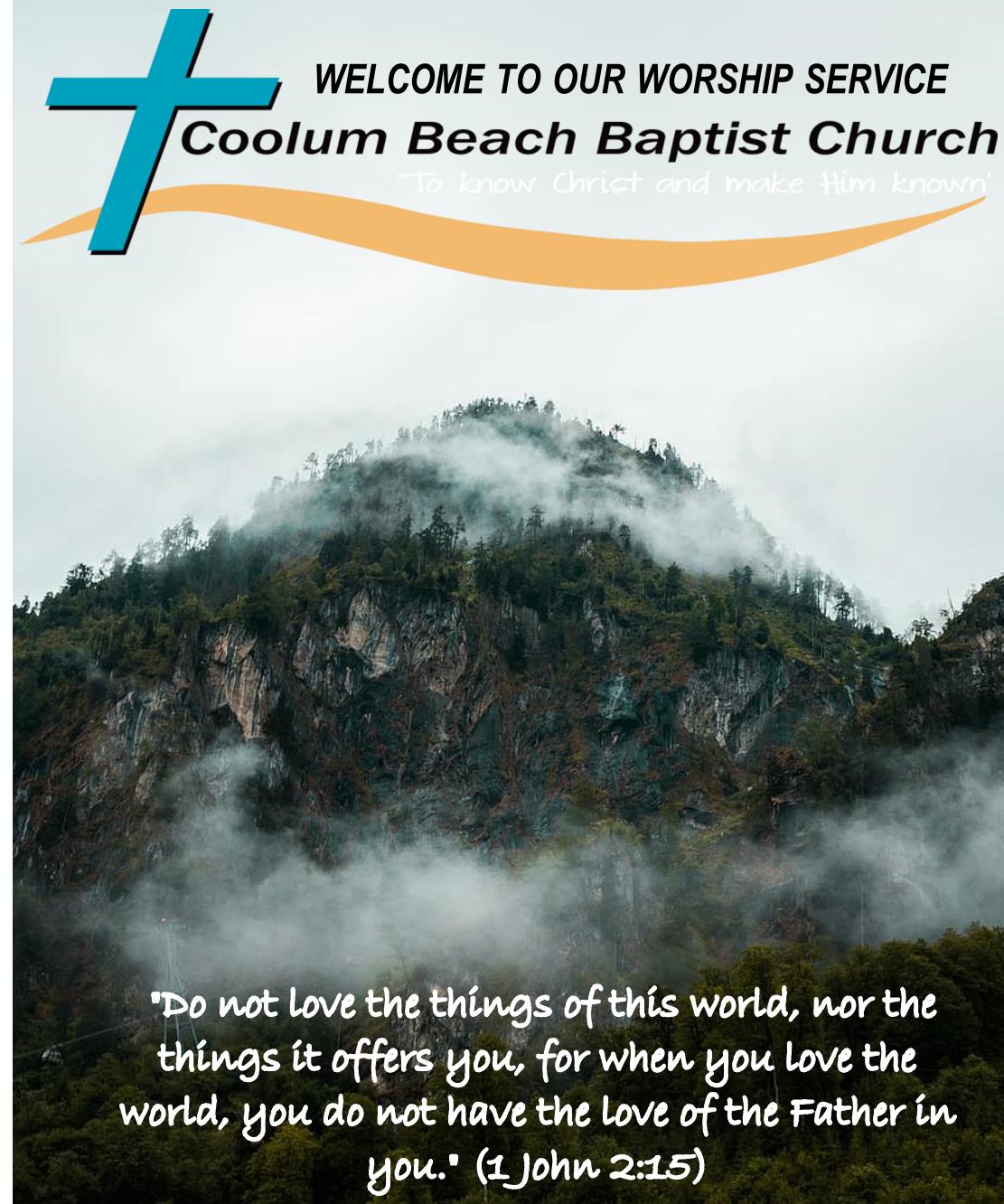


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16
August
2020

9AM and 10:30AM

PASTOR JOHN

"The Love God Hates" (1 John 2:12-17)