

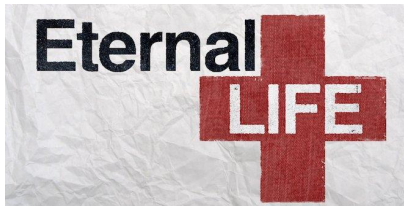
# The Youth Slate



I recently read a story about Napoleon Bonaparte, the ruler of France in the early 1800's, who was a merciless ruler. A woman came to Napoleon the day before her son was to be executed for his crimes to plead for mercy. Napoleon firmly stated that the laws determine that one who commits this kind of crime should be sentenced to death, and your son has committed this crime not once but twice. With words of finality Napoleon said, "Your son does not deserve mercy."

It was the mother's response that changed everything when she said, "My son does not deserve mercy. But if he did, it would not be mercy. And mercy is all I ask for." Napoleon was so taken by the mother's compassion and understanding that he said, "Then I will have mercy."

The young man was shown mercy and the death sentence was not carried out. He was not given the just punishment that he deserved—now that is mercy! Paul reminds us that we too are under a death sentence because of our sin—we *deserve* punishment and death, yet out of God's great mercy we do not receive it. The Father does not send His Son because we deserved it, earned it, or sought Him out. He sends the Savior because of His mercy—"When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy" (Titus 3:4-5).



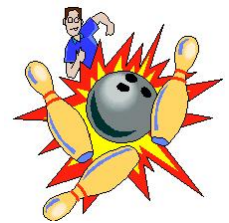
Each time you think you "*deserve*" something good remember that what we deserve is death—the wages we earn are death—but God has mercy on us, and gives us a free gift! Now that's grace added to God's magnificent mercy!

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

*Pastor Steve*

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**Middle School:** Be sure to join everyone upstairs for our opening and then start Grappling with the issues of faith through our Grapple Bible Study. We will be **bowling this month at Bowlmore Lanes** (2952 N Brady St) **at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. *Bring your friends and meet at Bowlmore for a rolling good time.* Mark your calendars for **March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>** for our middle school **Lock-in!**



**High School:** High School Youth Group meets on Sundays, 4:30pm, at Starbucks (53<sup>rd</sup> & Elmore). Our Bible Study is from the Book of Revelation, so join us as we learn more about what God has in store for our futures! On **February 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.** we will *meet at the Quad City Sports Center* for a chilly good time **Ice Skating.**