

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 39, No.22, May 28, 2013** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / ***The Grow in Grace Newsletter***— a weekly Bible Study, plus news notes, designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide who receive the Newsletter), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."**

## Core ESSENTIALS for Southside

This article is an attempt to set forth foundational or CORE ESSENTIAL Biblical **truth and practices for Southside**. Let each of us read, ponder, pray, ADJUST, and YIELD to the Word of God! **Note: A read through the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of the New Testament will reveal the following ESSENTIALS over and over!** This list of ESSENTIALS is not exhaustive nor are they listed in any sort of necessary sequence. **Note: At a later date, (soon, I hope!) the following points will be developed more fully with many Scripture references, which are the backbone of all that is briefly shared in this study.**

### SIXTEEN FOUNDATIONAL ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH LIFE AND MINISTRY:

**1. JESUS CHRIST is our only Head.** We exist to worship Him, to make Him known and to do whatever He desires as He builds His church in His wisdom and power. He is the Head; we are a part of His body. He is to get all the glory. He is the source of our life. He is the decision-maker; whatever He says in His Word goes! **The attraction in Biblical Christianity is JESUS CHRIST and His gospel of grace— proclaimed and lived!**

By walking in His steps and manifesting His life we make him 'visible' to a watching world. JESUS CHRIST is the character-pattern against which everything we do is to be evaluated. Let us develop a passion to grow in His likeness and yieldedness so that He is UNGREIVED in revealing His love and holiness in us and through us. He is the Head; we are an expression of His Body. He is the Good Shepherd; we are His Flock. He is the Vine; we are His Branches. Without Him we can do nothing; through Him we can do all things!

**2. The Bible is our only infallible, (without lies or error) blueprint for Church life.** Jesus is the living Truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. The Bible is the

written, God-breathed truth. The Living Truth gives us the written Truth quickened by the Spirit of Truth so that we may know God and His will for our lives. The written Word of God is given that we might, quickened by the Holy Spirit, know the God of the Word; and that we can know His will and grow in intimate fellowship with Him. The Bible expresses the mind of God inerrantly.

**The Bible is God-given for our only authoritative rule of faith and practice; and the supreme standard by which our conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.** Guidance from God will not conflict with the pure Word of God. **To claim to love JESUS CHRIST while rejecting His Word is a spirit of anti-Christ. We are commanded to act upon, heed, and obey the Word of God— and not just read or hear it.**

**3. Human traditions must bow to the Word of God.** The Word of God gives absolute truths and forms; but the Word of God also gives FREEDOMS. Whatever God has specifically laid down for us is absolute.

**Example:** It is a Biblical ‘absolute’ that we are not to ‘forsake assembling together’ with other believers. It is absolute that we are to engage in ‘true church work’ by carrying out the many ONE TO ANOTHERS toward each other. However, we have FREEDOM as to when and how often we meet as a congregation; and freedom as to precisely when and how to express the ‘one another’s’. We are never permitted to do things that are in violation of God’s Word.

**Even good, human traditions can become evil or a source of evil if we elevate them to the level of the Word of God.** In the areas of FREEDOMS and/or VARIABLES it is good to ask questions such as, (1) Will this cause us to violate the Word of God in any fashion? (2) Will this bring glory to God; will this help us to worship God in Spirit and in Truth and/or help us to build up one another and/or help us to evangelize the lost?

**4. Clearly, God’s goals for Southside are threefold—** the Glorification of God, the Edification of believers and the Evangelization of the lost. As these are kept in balance, God makes Himself known both to and through Southsiders in truth, in holiness and in love. **The Kingdom of God on earth through Southsiders is to be visible in righteousness, in peace and in joy in the Holy Spirit.**

**5. When we gather, Southside is to be focused on carrying out ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES, such as—** Worship, Teaching, Mutual Ministries, The LORD’S SUPPER, Singing unto the LORD, Prayer, Sending and Receiving Missionaries, Carrying out discipline when needed, and Praying for boldness to go back out into the world and live and proclaim the Gospel, etc. **We will go forward in UNITED PRAYER or we will not go forward.**

**6. Evangelism is the DAILY task of ALL TRUE BELIEVERS** as God enables us to REACH OUT to minister and to serve people who are outside of Christ. **A WITNESS for Jesus tells** what they have seen, heard and experienced; they tell it truthfully and, thus, they help others to arrive at an accurate conclusion about Jesus.

**This is to be done OUT IN THE WORLD where the lost people live and work.** It is out in the world that the lost are to witness righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, faith, hope and love flowing like a river from Southsiders. Such powerful MODELING of Jesus Christ makes our tracts and gospel presentations believable! SUCH POWERFUL LIVING makes it impossible for us to keep quiet about JESUS!

NOTE: WHEN SOUTHSIDERS ASSEMBLE the chief purpose is NOT to evangelize the lost but to WORSHIP GOD and to build up the saints, equipping them for their DAILY missionary/evangelism work out in the world.

**7. Biblical Evangelism includes both, (1)** A call to the LOST to receive the Gospel of Christ and **(2)** the specific training of those who do receive Christ, so that each new believer grows in Christ-likeness and becomes an effective soldier of Christ and discipler of others.

**8. Southside, as a local church, is a primary Missionary sending agency.** We are responsible under God to train, to recognize and to send forth missionaries, following the pattern found in Acts 13-15. This includes 'local missions' so that at the close of every Sunday's congregational service we are all freshly COMMISSIONED and sent forth as missionaries to OUR mission field! In Acts 13, the church at Antioch models the three phases of a Biblical church: **Childhood**— a time to take in; **Adolescence**— a time for growth and development; **Adulthood**— a time to send forth, to multiply. Southside as a whole and even Sunday school classes and Home Fellowship groups should have this vision!

**9. Tithes and Offerings are given UNTO THE LORD and are to be used for His Kingdom work and ministry.** We are to first give OURSELVES. Our giving is an expression of our STEWARDSHIP and an expression of our GRATITUDE for God's grace in our lives.

**10. Every believer is a Minister, a Believer-Priest,** who has been graced and gifted by God so that we may lovingly labor to build up our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and make Christ visible out in the world. The New Testament details and describes the true church work of every believer, as over 50 times the Holy Spirit calls us to minister the ONE ANOTHERS to each other.

**No New Testament Christian who is walking in fellowship with Jesus will ever be a mere 'attender' or 'spectator' in a local assembly of saints.**

**11. The Holy Spirit motivates and directs saints in service, ministry, work and worship.** Southside Church works together harmoniously and effectively when Southsiders are being led by the Holy Spirit. **There are opportunities in our church services for the whole body (each and every member!) to participate**— not only in congregational singing, but also in testimonies and praises unto the LORD and in various ministries to other believers and in the evangelizing of the lost. We must carefully embrace the call **not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. We must** be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit led congregational services will manifest PRAISE to God and embrace and act upon TRUTH from God.

**12. Servant Leadership in the Congregation.** The vision is for God to RAISE UP Elders and Deacons from within the congregation, as a general practice. EVERY MEMBER is to be a minister, a servant. Some are set forth as EXAMPLES/Servant-Leaders before the congregation. **We are at a point in the life of Southside** where

we NEED TO look unto the LORD for the raising up of additional deacons and for a return to plurality of Elders. Deacons are examples of servants, they model serving in many ways.

**Pastors/Bishops/Elders, (all one and the same)**, are a team of God-called, God-ordained men who, under Christ, are called to shepherd the local church. For the last several years, even though we have continued to have various men in the pulpit and not just one voice— nevertheless, officially we only have one man serving as Pastor/Elder. LET US DILIGENTLY seek the LORD and trust our LORD JESUS CHRIST for the raising up of additional men.

**Common Reality:** It is common for churches to come to a time when the lone pastor dies, or is called to some other ministry, etc. In most cases such churches start from ground zero and seek a pastor. They find one from somewhere and a new era starts with hope and excitement. However, in most cases, conflict and 'divorce' quickly follow. Why? Strangers 'married' and woke up a few months later to many SURPRISES!

**Here is a BETTER MODEL:** With plurality of ELDERSHIP there is the opportunity to have a 'seamless' transition from one 'LEAD' pastor/elder to another. EXAMPLE: We begin to cry out to God to show us, to lead us to additional pastors/elders who would labor alongside the current Pastor. They learn to function as a team. In the LORD'S timing, there would be a seamless transition **where by one** (Likely one of the younger ones) **would become the next lead full-time 'lead' pastor/elder.** The older could continue to serve for many years, but would be more and more in a roll of support and not lead. Thus, the church family and ministry would be able to continue without disruption. **In addition,** the church would be developing a 'pool of servant leadership' of men who could also be being equipped to be sent out on mission to other works and ministries and/or to new fields of labor. (There are variations of this model. The key essential is plurality.

**13. The function of pastors/elders at Southside is to serve as "Player-Coaches" of the Congregation.** A primary function is to EQUIP THE MEMBERS for their God-Appointed ministries, so that the whole body will be built up in love and Christ-likeness.

**14. The local church and the Home are two Divine institutions.** They should not compete but complete and complement one another. The Church should BUILD UP families. Strong, Godly families are vital for a vibrant Congregation. God holds parents to be primarily responsible for the training and discipling of children. The local Church family has a strong roll of supporting, encouraging, protecting, and equipping families.

**15. A local church is A BODY of believers.** Even as the MEMBERS of our human bodies are COMMITTED to ONE BODY and thus empowered TOGETHER to minister to OTHERS, even so it is in the church at Southside. We must make forward steps in this Biblical pattern of togetherness...

**16. Serious attention must be given as we seek to make sure that Southside Church is both united and pure.** As a part of this process, prayerful and humble application of Biblical Standards concerning Church Discipline need to be applied.

Grace to one and all! James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for JUNE!**

**LADIES SUMMER BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS: 6/18; 7/16; 8/13— Cindy Bell teaching!**

**1. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! / YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Southside Church building!**

**2. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH**

**3. Saturdays @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study**

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**1. 9:30am- Sunday School**

**2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church**

**3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish} - [Third Sunday, Lord's Supper @ 1pm]**

**4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service**

**NOTE: June 2, 9, 16— we will follow *the above* regular schedule**

**ADDITIONAL NOTE FOR June 16— during the Morning Worship service we will **HONOR FATHERS**... and we encourage the giving of GIDEON BIBLES in honor of Fathers.**

**During the 1pm service we plan to observe the LORD'S SUPPER...**

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 23**

**1. 9:30am- Sunday School 2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church**

**3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish} 4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service**

**NOTE: JUNE 23— DURING THE 1PM EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE:**

**A church family Conversation II: This is a re-scheduled FOLLOW UP on our Recent Church-wide CONVERSATION.** There were several important matters we did not get to discuss.

**1. Care Group Ministry: A suggestion coming** from our deacons' meeting of better CARING for all members and those attending... especially making sure that widows/widowers/shut-ins, etc... are cared for.

**2. Care for the Church Buildings and Grounds: A servant team** to lead us in the care of the church facilities.

**3. A follow-up as to Sunday School options.**

4. Some are wondering as to whether or not there is a vision for a re-start of AWANA or something similar... or...

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 30**

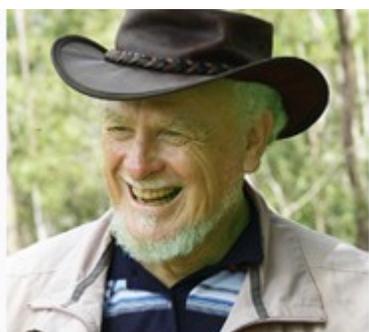
1. 9:30am- Sunday School
2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church
3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}

## **4. NO Early afternoon 1:00pm service.... See below:**



*The Creation Guy* John Mackay

**Yes, once again we will be very blessed to have 'The Creation Guy, John Mackay in our midst, June 30, beginning at 4:30pm:**



*The Creation Guy* John Mackay **WHERE: Southside Baptist Church**

**WHEN: June 30, 2013 @ 4:30pm-5:30pm and at 6:00pm-7:00pm**

**Contact: Southside Baptist Church, 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee / Call: 615-452-5951**

**TOPICS: GOD'S DESIGN! THE EYES HAVE IT! SKEPTICS HAVE LOST THE PLOT!**  
See the living and fossil evidence this man has collected which he uses to demolish the atheists in debates around the planet.

**HOW TO DEFEAT AGGRESSIVE ATHEISM!**

**Based on Darwinian Evolution, modern atheists are dominating politics, literature, sport and education, and using them to attack Christianity across the globe. Find out how to expose them from a man who defeats them worldwide.**



### **SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting***

***Church, Home and School in CHRIST!*** For over 30 years one of the outreach ministries of Southside Baptist Church, (1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee), has been and is **Southside Christian School, (SCS)**. **For the upcoming 2013-2014 school term we will be offering K5 through Twelfth grades.**

**Southside Christian School has a purposed focus— to team up with Christian families who desire Christian Education. Children need the Home, the Church and the School to model and teach the same philosophy of life.**

***Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected.*** Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents as to their critical roll. **QUESTION: Is it wise** for a child to spend 7-8 hours per day, 180 days a year for 12 or more years in a school system that does not support Christian family and local church values?

**REALITY— there are growing problems** with drugs, immorality, disrespect of authority, and lack of discipline in America. Typical schools teach the godless theory of evolution. Books and materials teaching alternative sexual lifestyles are being required. The religion of Humanism is in and Biblical Christianity is out! **In contrast,** at Southside Christian School we proclaim that **Jesus Christ and His wisdom** are central and the best preparation for the real world. **SCS offers** a sound academic education which is integrated with the Word of God.

**At Southside Christian School** a student can move ahead faster or go slower if that is the best rate for him. **He is not locked into a class schedule that goes if he has not learned; nor does he have to wait if he is able to advance ahead of his peers.** At Southside Christian School students experience social interaction through chapel, speech classes, art, field trips, Physical Education, music and competition at the Regional and International Student Convention.

**At Southside Christian School, academic excellence is reality.** Students must score **80%** or above to pass any and all subjects; **90% in lower levels.** No one is socially promoted. The classroom requires hard work, responsibility, and discipline.

The atmosphere is one of genuine love. Christian training and memorization of Scripture are built into the curriculum. BE SURE TO VIEW THE BRIEF *Presenting Accelerated Christian Education* video:

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

## **Southside Christian School**

1028 South Water Avenue,  
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

**Please call us at: 615-452-5951**