

# GROW IN GRACE

## NEWSLETTER

**Volume 39, No.29, July 16, 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... 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."***

### LET US RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD!

JESUS CHRIST IS THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". Hebrews 4:12 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:19

We are to **STUDY** God's Word, **KNOW** God's Word,

**BELIEVE** God's Word, **WALK** according to God's Word,

**ACT** on God's Word and **PRAY, BELIEVING** on God's Word

**so that** our lives may be transformed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22

### I. SYMBOLS OF GOD'S WORD!

- 1. The Word is like Fire.** Jeremiah 23:29  
It burns, cleanses and purges all that is contrary to its holy standard.
- 2. The Word is like a Hammer.** Jeremiah 23:29  
It smashes and demolishes evil.
- 3. The Word is like a Lamp.** Psalm 119:105  
It's an instrument of light and illumination in the darkness.
- 4. The Word is like a Mirror.** James 1:23  
It reveals to us what we are and what we can be in God.
- 5. The Word is like Milk.** 1 Peter 2:2  
It nourishes the young in Christ.
- 6. The Word is like a Rod.** Revelation 11:1-2  
As a measuring instrument it is the Divine standard in all matters of faith and practice.
- 7. The Word is like a Seed.** 1 Peter 1:23, Luke 8:11, James 1:18  
It is germinating, life producing Word, having the potential of eternal life within it.
- 8. The Word is like a Sword.** Hebrews 4:12  
It is sharp and two-edged in its operation, separating the things of the flesh and the spirit.
- 9. The Word is like Water.** Ephesians 5:26  
It is life giving, refreshing, and a cleansing agent.
- 10. The Word is like Gold.** Psalm 19:7-10 It is of priceless value, and an inexhaustable gold mine where one can dig out treasures forever.
- 11. The Word is like a Nail.** Ecclesiastes 12:11  
It is fastened in a sure place. We can safely hang things on it.
- 12. The Word is like bread.** Matthew 4:4  
It is the staff of life, ever fresh, and meant for daily consumption.
- 13. The Word is like a pearl.** Matthew 7:6  
It is a precious gem.
- 14. The Word is like an Anchor.** Hebrews 6:19-19  
It holds the believer in safety through every storm.
- 15. The Word is like a Star.** II Peter 1:19  
It guides the believer to Christ.
- 16. The Word is like Meat.** Hebrews 5:14 It nourishes our soul and spirit.

(Symbols of the Word of God are compiled by Kevin J. Conner)

*“When the child of God looks into the Word of God And sees the Son of God He is changed by the Spirit of God Into the Image of God For the Glory of God!”*

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IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA the Church at Corinth was greatly hindered by many different expressions of selfish living. The Holy Spirit moved the heart and hand of the Apostle Paul to reveal God’s solutions— solutions not only for the saints at Corinth but solutions for saints drowning in selfishness anywhere.

**THE DIVINE HEALING** from the contagious blight of sin **and Divine healing** from all manner of selfishness **comes by receiving and preaching THE GOSPEL to ourselves:**

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; **but unto us who are saved** it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18) The Holy Spirit continues through Paul, “... we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; **but unto them who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor. 1:23-24) THUS: “... I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)

**The Holy Spirit also moved upon Paul to give to the Corinthian Christians SPECIFIC EXHORTATIONS and instructions as to the specific issues they were facing. Most every chapter directly confronts and instructs. (1 Corinthians 1-16)**

**This reality brings forth this important question—**

## **II. HOW CAN I PROFIT FROM THE WORD OF GOD?**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

**1. We are spiritually profited when the Word *convicts us of sin.*** "...When the Holy Spirit applies the Word to OUR heart and conscience,

WE CRY, "Woe is me, for I am undone."

**2. We are spiritually profited when the Word makes us *sorrow over sin.*** Those who were convicted under the preaching of Peter it is recorded that they were pricked in their heart (Acts 2:37). Many will listen to a flowery sermon which, usually, contains no searching application to the conscience. It is received..., but no one is humbled before God or brought into a closer walk with Him through it.

ALSO in the private reading of the Word, it is when the Holy Spirit applies it in such a way that I am made to see and feel my inward corruption’s that I am really blessed. Jeremiah 31:19: "After that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded."

There must be mourning before comfort (Matt. 5:4); Humbling before exalting (1 Pet. 5:6).

**3. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word leads to *confession of sin*.** The Scriptures are profitable for "reproof" (2 Tim. 3:16). Of the LOST it is said, "For every one that loveth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd" (John 3:20). **"God be merciful to me a sinner" is the cry of a renewed heart, and every time we are quickened by the Word (Ps. 119) there is a fresh revealing to us and a fresh owning by us of our transgressions before God.**

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

There can be no spiritual prosperity or fruitfulness (Ps. 1:3) while we conceal our secret SINS; only as they are freely owned before God, shall we enjoy His mercy. There is no real peace for the conscience and no rest for the heart while we bury the burden of unconfessed sin. Relief comes when it is fully CONFESSED to God.

David TESTIFIES, "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer" (Ps. 33:3, 4). Blessed indeed:

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin" (Ps. 32:5).

**4. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word produces in him a *deeper hatred of sin*.** "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil" (Ps. 97: 10). "We cannot love God without hating that which He hates.

We are not only to avoid evil, and refuse to continue in it, but we must be up in arms against it, and bear towards it a hearty indignation" (C. H. Spurgeon).

**One of the surest tests to apply to the professed conversion is the heart's attitude towards sin.** If our hatred of evil be genuine, we are thankful when the Word reproves even the evil which we suspected not. This was the experience of David: "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way" (Ps. 119:128). Observe well, it is not merely "I abstain from," but "I hate"; not only "some" or "many," but "*every false way*"; and not only "every evil," but "*every false way*."

"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right and I hate every false way" (Ps. 119:128). Rightly has it been said, "Till sin be hated, it cannot be mortified; you will never cry against it, as the Jews did against Christ, Crucify it, Crucify it, till sin be really abhorred as He was" (Edward Reyner, 1635).

**5. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word causes a *forsaking of sin*.** "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Tim. 2:

19). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" (2 Cor. 7:1). "Now ye are *clean* through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

**Here is another important rule by which we should frequently test ourselves:** Is the reading and studying of God's Word producing a purging of my ways? Of old the question was asked, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" and the Divine answer is "by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Yes, not simply by reading, believing, or memorizing it, but by the personal application of the Word to our "way."

**It is by taking heed to such exhortations as** "*Flee* fornication" (1 Cor. 6:18), "*Flee* from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14). "*Flee* these things"—a covetous love for money (1 Tim. 6:11), "*Flee* also youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22), that the Christian is brought into practical separation from evil; for sin has not only to be confessed but "forsaken" (Prov. 28:13).

**6. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word fortifies against sin.** The Holy Scriptures are given to us not only for the purpose of revealing our innate sinfulness, and the many, many ways in which we "come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23), **but also to teach us how to obtain deliverance from sin, how to be kept from displeasing God.** "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I *might not sin* against thee" (Ps. 119:11).

It is particularly the commandments, the warnings, the exhortations, we need to make our own and to treasure; to memorize them, meditate upon them, pray over them, and put them into practice. The only effective way of keeping a plot of ground from being overgrown by weeds is to sow good seed therein: "**Overcome evil with good**" (Rom 12:21). So the more Christ's Word dwells in us "richly" (Col. 3:16), the less room will there be for the exercise of sin in our hearts and lives.

It is not sufficient merely to assent to the TRUTHFULNESS of the Scriptures; they require to be received into the affections. **It is unspeakably solemn to note that the Holy Spirit specifies as the ground of apostasy, "because the love of the truth they received not"** (2 Thess. 2:10).

**Nothing else will preserve from the infections of this world, deliver from the temptations of Satan, and be so effective a preservative against sin, as the Word of God received into the affections,** "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide" (Ps. 37:31). As long as the truth is active within us, stirring the conscience, and is really loved by us, we shall be kept from falling.

When Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife, he said, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). The Word was in his heart, and therefore had prevailing power over his lusts.

None of us knows when he may be tempted: therefore it is necessary to be prepared against it. "Who among you will give ear . . . and hear *for the time to come*?" Isa. 42:23). Yes, we are to anticipate the future and be fortified against it, by storing up the Word in our hearts for coming emergencies.

**7. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word causes him to *practice the opposite of sin*.** "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). God says "Thou shalt," sin says "I will not"; God says "Thou shalt not," sin says "I will." Thus, sin is rebellion against God, the determination to have my own way (Isa. 53:6).

Now the opposite of sinning against God is submission to Him, as the opposite of lawlessness is subjection to the law. Thus, to practice the opposition of sin is to walk in the path of obedience. This is another chief reason why the Scriptures were given: to *make known* the path which is pleasing to God for us. **They are profitable not only for reproof and correction, but also for "instruction in righteousness."**

Here, then, is another important rule by which we should frequently test ourselves. Are my thoughts being formed, my heart controlled, and my ways and works regulated by God's Word? **This is what the Lord requires:** "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jas. 1:22). This is how gratitude to and affection for Christ are to be expressed: "If ye love me, *keep* my commandments" (John 14:15).

**For this, Divine GRACE is needed.** David prayed, "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments" (Ps. 119:35). Has your study of the Bible made you more humble, or more proud—proud of the knowledge you have acquired? Has it raised you in the esteem of your fellow men, or has it led you to take a lower place before God?

Has it produced in you a deeper abhorrence and loathing of self, or has it made you more complacent? Has it caused those you mingle with, or perhaps teach, to *say*, I wish I had your *knowledge* of the Bible; or does it cause you to *pray*, Lord give me the faith, the grace, the *holiness* Thou hast granted my friend, or teacher? 'Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting *may appear* unto all' (1 Tim. 6:15). (This section of this article is edited from A. W. Pink.

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

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## **NEXT WORK DAY FOR BUILDING/GROUNDS:**

**JULY 27/ 9:00AM**

**After MANY years of use, there are a MULTITUDE of materials and ITEMS which have collected... which WILL BE THROWN AWAY... or you can give them a new home— BUT THEY MAY NO LONGER BE STORED in the Southside Church building!**

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**NEXT LADIES SUMMER BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS: 8/13— Cindy Bell teaching!**

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for JULY!**

1. **WEDNESDAYS:** PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! YOUTH: 6-8pm.
2. **Thursdays** @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH
3. **Saturdays** @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR JULY 21, 28**

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**

**[THIS SUNDAY, July 21, 1:00PM- LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE!]**

## **History - America Has Changed**

**Way back in the sixteenth century, the great reformer, Martin Luther said:** "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt." **Apparently, America's founding father, George Washington would have agreed, for he said,** *"The future of this nation depends upon the Christian training of the youth. It is impossible to govern without the Bible."* In fact, for about the first one hundred years of America's existence, first graders learned to read from the New England Primer. **The 1762 edition taught the ABCs this way:** **A** - In Adam's fall, we sinned all. **B** - Heaven to find, the Bible mind. **C** - Christ crucify'd for sinners dy'd

**America Has Changed! And yet, many Christian parents are mystified at what is happening to America's youth.** For after all, modern, secular education is believed to be neutral! However, Gordon Clark exposes this belief when he correctly says, "....The public schools are not, never were, can never be, neutral. **Neutrality is impossible.** Let one ask what neutrality can possibly mean when God is involved? How does God judge the school system which says to Him, "O God, we neither deny nor assert thy existence; and O God, we neither obey nor disobey thy commands; we are strictly neutral. **Let no one fail to see the point:** The School System that ignores God, teaches its pupils to ignore God, and this is not neutrality; it is the worst form of antagonism, for it judges God to be unimportant and irrelevant in human affairs. It is atheism.

What will you do? You are commanded to "Train up your child/children... in the nurture and admonition of the LORD." God places the responsibility of educating your children squarely upon your shoulders! **UNDER WHICH PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE WILL HE/SHE**

**BE EDUCATED? *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. **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.

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

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