

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 40, No.14, April 8, 2014** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter** is a weekly Bible Study, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), 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."**

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER— Grand, Profound, and Simple!**

**JESUS SAID— "...This Do In Remembrance of Me."** (Luke 22:19) The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on **the same night in which He was betrayed** took bread;<sup>24</sup> and **when He had given thanks**, He broke *it* and said, **"Take, eat this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**<sup>25</sup> In the same manner *He* also took the cup after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**"

**THE ABOVE CHRIST-COMMANDED REMEMBRANCE IS IN RADICAL CONTRAST** to what the religious masses love and demand in varying degrees today: Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, **Service of Darkness or Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday**, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday!

**HISTORIC FACT:** These are all religious customs and traditions which have basically come to the twenty-first century through Roman Catholicism. In reality, Rome borrowed many of these beloved customs

from other religions and then *Christianized* them. In varying degrees most Protestants have further adapted and stoutly defend them.

**EVEN SO: Neither Jesus, nor His Apostles, nor any of the New Testament churches practiced ANY of the above. Jesus gave CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS about how He wanted us to REMEMBER HIM! \*\*\* What would be wrong with simply obeying Jesus? \*\*\***

**The Bible is very clear—** when it comes to celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ New Testament Christians simply obeyed Jesus and celebrated the New Testament Passover or LORD'S SUPPER! (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26) Thus, if we simply take our direction from Jesus and the New Testament— we will do as the New Testament Christians did! **Reality:** We are so steeped in the traditions of man that the simple command of Jesus and the pattern of the New Testament seems very strange to most of us! **So as to be encouraged to OBEY JESUS— let us look at the Old Testament background which paves the way to "This Do In Remembrance of Me."** (Luke 22:19)

**The God appointed worship celebrations of the Old Testament era** (which included MULTITUDES of blood sacrifices), **pointed to the coming Lamb of God, JESUS!** All of the blood sacrifices of the **Old Testament were designed to convey the truth that God is holy and that only by the shedding of innocent blood can sin be forgiven and salvation secured.**

**Yes, God is holy.** We are born sinners who freely choose sin and rebellion against God. We are, by nature, under the wrath of God, Ephesians 2:1-3. Only God's mercy keeps the sinner out of hell one moment longer! Yet, amazingly, God so loved His enemies that He sent His Son! Jesus willingly died in the sinner's place. Jesus paid the sin debt of sinners. Jesus is the key to the kingdom of God! THEREFORE, graciously the Holy Spirit moves sinners to cry out to God in this manner: ***"I am a sinner. I have a sin debt which I cannot pay. Jesus, have mercy on me; I repent of my rebellion. JESUS SAVE ME NOW!"***

**CHRISTIAN: God's redeemed never cease to need the GOSPEL!** Like a mighty lighthouse, **the Scripture shine forth** redemption's story through **Seven Sacred Feasts of the LORD! IN OUR NEW**

**TESTAMENT ERA** the Holy Spirit will use these to remind all of God's redeemed children of God's **so great salvation**— a salvation that has **a definite beginning, a definite process, and a definite climax** which leads into eternity with God! **In the New Testament era, we should be reminded of all of this at the LORD'S SUPPER! The Sacred Feasts, (illuminated by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit), unveil a 'Spiritual Road Map' for the Christian's life— showing where we've been, where we are and where God is leading us!** When the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes**" (1 Corinthians 11:26)— **THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF FULL SALVATION is contained in that one phrase!** THEREFORE, let us turn to the Scriptures and study the Seven Feasts of the LORD— especially to see how they prophesied of, led to, and are fulfilled in and by JESUS CHRIST!

**The Feasts of the Lord—** "... The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My feasts.**" (Leviticus 23:1-2)  
**What the Biblical revelation of this study is NOT and IS:**

**1. It is not** an admonition to celebrate the Feasts as a means of attempting to earn favor with God. In writing to the Colossians (2:16-17), Paul said, "Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon celebration or a Sabbath day."

**2. In this article,** as to the truth found in the seven Feasts of the LORD, our concern is focused on this two part question: ***What is the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST and what is the revelation of FULL SALVATION in Christ to the believer living today?***

**3. In other words,** what has Christ **done? What** is Christ **doing? What will Christ do** as to salvation blessings for His redeemed?

**4. Remember: the Old Testament Feasts were a shadow of things that were to come. The reality is found in Christ. Thus, at His Table we should be GLORYING in full and complete salvation!** THEREFORE, this study is a call to embrace the FULL SALVATION of the Lord and respond in worship and praise to God! **It is a**

**call to live in light of God's complete Calendar of Redemption, being reminded of FULL SALVATION every time we are at His Table!**

**5. It is a call to live in the full light of heaven's reality— *Jesus came! Jesus is here! Jesus is coming back! And until HE COMES BACK WE MUST BE FOCUSED ON HIS BUSINESS!* And as we do, we will be INVINCIBLE UNTIL HE CALLS US HOME! *Let us go forward DELIGHTING in Him, RESTING in Him, and LABORING by the power of His Spirit until the Master comes!***

**6. IN ALL FAITH AND PRACTICE: Let us get back to God's Holy Word; and let us sit at His feet and worship Him in spirit and in truth.** (2 Peter 1:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-14; Matthew 4:4; John 4:23-24) Let us walk in the steps of the man Christ Jesus who lived by every Word that proceeded from His Father! (Matthew 4:4)

**I. Leviticus 23:4-5 - PASSOVER** For the Old Testament Israelites, Passover was a remembrance of the night when the death angel passed over their homes sparing the first born. **For us, the Passover marks the beginning of salvation! The Passover lamb beautifully pictured Christ—** “Behold the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.” (John 1:29) **“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”** (1 Cor. 5:7)

**God's message in the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same: Not when I see your good works or your golden rule living; NOT WHEN I see your religious traditions — but “When I see the blood, I will pass over you!” **WE MUST NEVER FORGET THIS:** The Israelite deserved death as much as the Egyptian! Professing Christian— WE deserve death and Hell as much as anyone! Only when one is gripped by this truth will they flee to Christ for His blood to pay their sin debt! **Have you ever come to Jesus with all of your sin;** and cried out in similar fashion as the tax-collector: **“O God, be merciful to me a sinner!?”****

**II. Leviticus 23:6-8 - UNLEAVENED BREAD** In Scripture, leaven usually refers to sin. This feast pictured that those who were delivered from death, (by the shedding of and the applying of INNOCENT blood), have also turned their backs on their sin and their sin is forgiven!

Therefore, let us receive this reminder from the Word of God: **God has a claim on the regenerated life! (OPEN YOUR BIBLE/READ: I Cor. 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; I Thess. 5:22)**

MOREOVER: When Israel went out of Egypt by the power of God, Pharaoh and his armies pursued; but God stepped in to overcome the impossible! When a person becomes a Christian, Satan and his armies pursue. They call you back. They will try to force you back to Egypt! Christian friend, in our own strength we cannot conquer sin or self or Satan! **IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, we cannot keep God's holy commandments. But Christ in us can! And so it is by Him, our High Priest, that we conquer (Ex. 13:14 & 14:14).** Therefore, in obedient faith, let us put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7). **In obedient faith,** let us live a life of feeding on Christ, the BREAD OF LIFE, who has no leaven. **In trusting faith** let us live a life of total dependence. **The LORD'S TABLE reminds us of all this and more!**

**III. Leviticus 23:9-14— The Feast of FIRST FRUITS** The Israelites could not harvest any of their early grain crop until the first bundle of grain was cut and brought to the priest. The priest would wave it before the Lord to be accepted of God.

**For us, the resurrected Jesus Christ is the first fruits of them that slept.** (I Cor. 15:20-23) Jesus arose from the dead. He was accepted by God. And because He, the first fruits, was accepted— so we, the rest of the harvest, are accepted in Him— James 1:18— "...of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures..." Moreover, Rom. 8:23 tells us that we have the first fruits of the Holy Spirit!

**It is by the Holy Spirit that we have even now the resurrection life of Christ IN US and the blessed hope of future resurrection! Now, the Feast of First Fruits was always held the third day from Passover:** Christ was crucified on the day of Passover. He arose from the dead three days later on the Day of First Fruits. **When we experience NEW BIRTH - a saving encounter with Jesus Christ - it is a spiritual participation in the first three feasts:**

**(1) PASSOVER**— we are delivered BY THE BLOOD SACRIFICE OF A SUBSTITUTE, A SIN BEARER, OUR SAVIOR. Christ became our Passover Lamb and WE were and ARE delivered from wrath/slavery/guilt. **But that is not all:** WE ALSO EXPERIENCE,

**(2) “UNLEAVENED BREAD”**— that is, we are separated. We put away sin and feed on Christ.

**(3) FIRST FRUITS**— that is, we are consecrated. We are accepted *in the Beloved* because of His resurrection and we are set apart for Him. We are not only saved from the world, the flesh and the devil, but we are consecrated— **Saved to a new resurrected life in Christ. But that’s not all!**

**IV. THE FEAST OF PENTECOST** This feast is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. It was seven weeks or 50 days after the presentation of the bundle of First Fruits. This was originally a sort of harvest festival of thanksgiving after the people had gathered the harvest. The ancient rabbis, right or wrong, later concluded that God gave the law to Moses on this day. So this festival came to be regarded as the season of the giving of the law.

**But more significant and certain is this:**

**1. Jesus died on Passover.**

**2. Jesus was raised on First Fruits.**

**3. And the Holy Spirit came exactly on the day of Pentecost!**

**QUESTION: Are you beginning to see the relevance of God’s sacred calendar of redemption?** Moreover, the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost for express purposes: **To indwell and fill and baptize believers. John 14:16-17— He shall be in you. (Acts 1:5; 2:4) Why?**

**1. To empower** the believers for the evangelizing of the world (Acts 1:8).

**2. To form** the body of Christ (Jew and Gentile— I Cor. 12:13).

**3. To enable** and empower every Christian to keep God’s holy law (Ez. 36:26-27; Romans 8:1-4).

**4. To teach us** all that Jesus said; to glorify Jesus; to unveil the future (John 14-16);

**5. To manifest** in and through every redeemed sinner a miraculous orchard of fruit (Gal. 5:21-23);

**6. To release** through every Christian a glorious array of ministering gifts to build up the body of Christ. **Oh, glorious full salvation!**

**NOTICE: ALL OF THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:**

**1. Passover**— Deliverance from judgment and Satan.

**2. Unleavened Bread**— Separation from sin.

**3. First Fruits**— Consecration to Christ.

**4. Pentecost**— Indwelling power for a holy/bold/witnessing life in the Body of Christ.

**We are living in the Pentecostal age. EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS, FROM A BIBLICAL SENSE, A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTIAN! RIGHT NOW: We are living in an interval of time before the next great event of God's calendar. My, what a solid Rock foundation the Christian has:**

**1. Christ** died for us. **2. Christ**, our unleavened bread. **3. Christ** raised. **4. Christ** indwelling and empowering. **Our past is forgiven! Our present is empowered! But even that's not all! Now, in the fall of the Jewish year came the: Feast of Trumpets; The Day of Atonement **AND** the Feast of Tabernacles!**

**V. Leviticus 23:24— THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS** In this present hour, the Christian lives with soberness and with hope. **Soberness:** Sound the trumpet! The judgment and wrath of God is coming. **Soberness:** Rev. 18:2-5. **Hope/confident expectation:** Rev. 19-22.

**VI. Leviticus 23:27— THE DAY OF ATONEMENT** In the Old Testament the Day of Atonement was a sacred day of cleansing from sin. **Today, in Christ**, because of Calvary, **we are already** cleansed from (1) the penalty of sin and (2) the ruling power of sin. **But one day, when Christ comes**, we shall also be delivered from even (3) the presence of sin and possibility of sin (I John 3:1-3).

No wonder PAUL CRIES OUT— “... **God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world...**” (Gal. 6:14, Phillips paraphrase)

## VII. Leviticus 23:43— THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Here is consummation, completion, rest, and fellowship with God. Here is ruling/rejoicing with Christ forever. Here is sitting at His feet and beholding His face (Rev. 22:1-5). Therefore: Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 3:13-14

**Yes**, in New Testament fullness the Sacred Feasts of the LORD call us to a revival of DELIGHTING IN GOD and a revival of DELIGHTING in so GREAT SALVATION! **Here is a LIGHTHOUSE** to help keep us from spiritual shipwreck. **Here is a yearly, ROAD-MAP** so that every week and throughout the year every Christian is reminded of WHO we are in Christ, WHOSE we are in Christ, and that we are on a specific journey with a grand mission, and that we are headed home! YES — *“Blessed/happy/fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, **who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized by the feasts; they walk, O Lord, in the light and favor of your countenance.**”* (Psalm 89:15, Amp)

**QUESTION:** All these things being true and unveiled in a New Testament understanding of the FEASTS of the LORD— **WHY DOESN'T THE NEW TESTAMENT CALL FOR the New Testament OBSERVANCE of these seven feasts?**

**ANSWER:** The New Testament DOES just that— The entire message of FULL SALVATION is encompassed at the LORD'S TABLE! We remember... till He comes! **New Testament FULL SALVATION is to be set forth at the LORD'S TABLE!**

\*\*\* **When it comes to celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ New Testament Christians simply obeyed Jesus and celebrated the New Testament Passover or LORD'S SUPPER!** (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26) \*\*\* **Jesus gave CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS about how He wanted us to REMEMBER HIM!**



## **What would be wrong with simply obeying Jesus?**

Grace and Truth to all!

[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)  
James Bell

### **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing with us every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Any questions contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**\*\*\* WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! NOTE:** Jody Allen is ministering to young Children, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service.

**YOUTH GROUP: Wednesdays 6-8pm...** led by Byron Smith\_

**➔ NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Thursday, April 17, 11:00AM,** led by Cindy Bell

**\*\*\* SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!**  
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### **REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR April 13, 20, 27**

- 1. 9:30am- Sunday School➔ Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship**
- 2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church**
- 3. Noon:** Fellowship 'covered-dish' Meal together!
- 4. 1:00pm-** Early afternoon Service, in the Fellowship Hall

**\*\*\*\* APRIL 20 IS RESURRECTION SUNDAY! \*\*\*\***

1. During the 9:30AM Sunday School hour, we will have a BRUNCH.
2. DURING THE 10:45AM WORSHIP HOUR we will sing praise to God for the life, the death, and the resurrection of our LORD; Dr. Bobby Gupta, President of Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, India, will be preaching;
3. We will conclude at the LORD'S TABLE.
4. NO noon meal or afternoon service.

## **SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL!**

***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!

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

**\*\*\* SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: April 15-16 from 10AM to 2pm \*\*\***