

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No. 34, August 26, 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."***

SINNERS FORGIVEN AND RESTORED! [NOTE: At the last minute I changed to this article, drawing from sermon notes. Please excuse excessive 'CAPS' and choppiness in sentences. Please allow the truth of Scripture, aided by the Holy Spirit to encourage and transform!]

Psalm 51: In my Bible, the heading of Psalm 51 goes like this: "To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." What happened with Bathsheba is well known. 2 Samuel 11:2-5: *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. . . . Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."*

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? David tried to cover his sin by bringing Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, home from battle so Uriah could lie with her and think it was his baby. BUT, Uriah was too noble to go in to his wife while his comrades were in battle. So David arranged to have him killed so that he could quickly marry Bathsheba and cover the sin that way. NOT

SURPRISINGLY, [2 Samuel 11:27](#) ends with these words: **“The thing that David had done displeased the Lord.”**

QUESTION: HOW MANY OF US HAVE SOMETHING GOING ON IN OUR LIFE... AND THE THING THOUGHT, SAID, OR DONE DISPLEASES THE LORD? BUT LIKE DAVID, ARE we IN HIDING?

THE STORY CONTINUES: God sent the prophet Nathan to David with a parable... AND IN HIS response, DAVID pronounced his own condemnation. Then Nathan said, “You are the man!” and asked, **“Why have you despised the word of the Lord?”** *David broke and confessed, “I have sinned against the Lord.”* Then Nathan said, **“The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.** Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die” ([2 Samuel 12:7-15](#)).

Is this not astounding? 1. The highest authority figure in the land sexually violated a married woman. 2. Uriah, her husband, was murdered. 3. David *“despised the word of the Lord.”* He brought public shame to God. **And yet Nathan said, “The Lord has put away your sin.”** Just like that! ...The Lord “put away [his] sin” ([2 Samuel 12:13](#)).

MAYBE THERE’S SOMEONE IN YOUR WORLD; THEY HAVE DONE WICKEDNESS TO YOU OR A LOVED ONE AND YOU DON’T WANT TO FORGIVE THEM; AND YOU DON’T SEE HOW GOD CAN FORGIVE THEM! **OR MAYBE YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR...** AND YOU FEEL YOU HAVE DONE SO BAD... YOU ARE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY SOCIETY. AND YOU THINK GOD COULD NOT, WOULD NOT FORGIVE YOU!

The apostle Paul explains how God CAN BE AND IS both righteous and the one who justifies murderers and rapists and liars and child molesters... and even the likes of sinners like you and me! [Romans 3:25-26](#)—[JESUS]... *“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*

BECAUSE OF THE PRICE JESUS PAID AT CALVARY, GOD IS ABLE TO REMAIN JUST WHILE AT THE SAME TIME JUSTIFYING SINNERS! PASSING OVER SINNERS... [That's exactly what [2 Samuel 12:13](#) says God did— He passed over David's sin]. HOWEVER... GOD DID NOT 'SWEEP DAVID'S SIN UNDER ANYTHING... as if sin is no big deal. **REALITY:** Jesus was the LAMB slain before the foundation of the world. Jesus came to Calvary and paid the sinner's sin debt. As John Piper has SAID: **“God SAW from the time of David down the centuries to the death of his Son, Jesus Christ, who would die in David's place, so that David's faith in God's mercy and God's future redeeming work united David with Christ. In God's mind, David's sins WERE PLACED ON Christ; and Christ's righteousness WERE PLACED ON DAVID. THEREFORE, God justly passed over David's sin. BECAUSE OF JESUS AT CALVARY... With no compromise to God's HOLINESS... GOD CAN FORGIVE THE VILEST SINNER and make him or her into one of His amazing trophies of GRACE!”**

OK... BUT WHAT ABOUT MY SIN? “God SAW from YOUR TIME... AND MINE IN THE 21ST CENTURY... BACK TO the death of his Son, Jesus Christ, who died in YOUR place, so that YOUR faith in God's mercy and God's PAST redeeming work has united YOU with Christ.”

THEREFORE, FOR ALL WHO ARE TRULY TRUSTING CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD: YOUR sins are PLACED ON Christ; and Christ's righteousness is GIVEN TO YOU. THEREFORE, God justly passes over YOUR sin. Jesus, once for all, by his life and death, purchased our forgiveness and provided our righteousness. We can add nothing to the purchase or the provision. We share in the forgiveness and the righteousness by faith alone. **THEREFORE,** AS BELIEVERS... IF... WHEN WE SIN— WE CAN AND WE MUST COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE TO FIND HELP IN TIME OF NEED. WE CONFESS OUR SINS... AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS...GOES ON CLEASING US FROM ALL SIN. THIS RESTORES FELLOWSHIP. **HOWEVER:** IF YOU ARE NOT A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN; YOU PRESENTLY HAVE NO ACCESS TO THIS GLORIOUS FORGIVENESS. FLEE TO CHRIST! CRY OUT FOR HIS MERCY!

AS TO PSALM 51 IS a psalm about A BAD SINNER FORGIVEN AND RESTORED. Sin brings a guilty conscience: We ARE ALL CAPABLE OF

USING a multitude of schemes to cover our sin. We blame others. We blame our circumstances. We enlist the sympathy of many, as with teary eyes we tell others how we have been wronged, passed by or neglected! We will do most anything RATHER THAN DO DEAL WITH OUR OWN SIN. The guilt keeps nagging and Judgment Day will come! **The point is simple:** There are many ways to respond to sin and a guilty conscience. But, in Psalm 51, WE HAVE a clear picture of the fact that it is by OUR OWN sin that joy is lost... And by OUR OWN repentance and confession that joy is restored. In Psalm 51, we are reminded of what sin can do—EVEN in the life of the believer. And we are shown the path to forgiveness and a clear conscience. How amazing is the work of God in a human heart! David goes from covering his sin... to recording his guilt in Ps. 32 & 51 for all of us to see, to hear, to learn, to profit. So, we will look at Psalm 51 to see something of the deadly, wide-spread damage that sin accomplishes: (thanks to Adrian Rogers for the string of ‘Ss’ we will use!)

I. Sin soils the soul—51:1-2. *¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!* King David felt dirty! For some time, he had been under the burden of unconfessed and unrepented sin, with all of the guilt. NOW, he wanted a spiritual bath! THAT’S a good sign— A sheep may get in the mud and mire, but he’s not at home there. A REAL Christian is not at home in sin. He may lapse into sin. He may, on occasion, be found as David— in knowing, rebellious sin. But, he is miserable. Sin soiled his soul. **IT’S A WONDERFUL DAY WHEN WE break silence and DEAL WITH OUR SIN BY CONFESSION!** Oh, what a day of rejoicing some CAN have today! Break your silence and confess your sin: Prov. 28:13 / 1 JOHN 1:9 / James 5:16

II. Sin saturates the mind—51:3. *³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.* You may have lots of sorrow and trials in life; but, with a clear conscience— all your battle scars quickly heal! It’s not what others do against us... OR WHAT WE ACCUSE THEM OF DOING that slows us down spiritually! No! If our conscience is clear and our response is of God, we SAIL, WE FLY! **But UNCONFESSED Sin makes wounds THAT ARE filled with festering germs.**

YOU MAY BE FREE FROM SENSUOUS SINS... I HOPE YOU ARE... BUT UNCONFESED, EXCUSED, 'JUSTIFIED' ATTITUDE SINS ARE ALSO FILLED WITH FESTERING SIN GERMS. UNTIL we confess OUR OWN sin and by faith place THEM on Jesus, OUR SIN will continue to be before us. O... BUT WHAT IF HE IS TESTIFYING THAT EVEN AFTER BEING FORGIVEN HIS SIN IS EVER BEFORE HIM, **as in Proverbs 6:32-33?** WHAT MUST I DO? "I MUST LEARN TO FORGIVE MYSELF!"

NO! RATHER: 1. God will use the memory to ENHANCE HUMILITY... 2. RE-OCCURRING GUILT feelings about FORGIVEN SIN IS "**A SIGNAL TO FLEE TO THE CROSS AND VALUE WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED THERE AS MUCH AS GOD THE FATHER VALUES WHAT JESUS DID THERE!**"

III. Sin stings the conscience—51:4 *⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

David finally laid down all his defenses, all his excuses, and reasonings. NOW, one thing WAS uppermost in his mind— ***I have sinned against God!*** It's not just that his sin is known and he's sorry that people know... RATHER, he is conscience stricken that he has sinned against Holy God. NOW, he is placing the blame on the only one it can be placed on— himself! Not Bathsheba; not the devil; not stress— but David! **CONSIDER THIS:** So long as we defend ourselves with OUR EXCUSES we cannot have Jesus Christ as our attorney in the matter confronting us. AM I covering up sin, blaming others, and pleading MY innocence? Or AM I pleading the blood of Christ? (Heb. 9:14)?

IV. Sin saddens the heart— 51:8, 12 *⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.* Sin saddens the heart of the believer. JESUS SAID, "Peter".. "Satan is out to get you!" And when that ROOSTER CROWED the THIRD time, Peter suddenly realized his sin of denial and he wept! **What a wonderful day it is when we weep over our own sin in godly sorrow!**

It is never circumstance, nor our mate, nor our children, nor our neighbors, nor the church,

nor the pastor, nor our boss at work who rob us of joy! **No! It is ONLY our SIN OR OUR response of sin!** I MAY SAY: They mistreated ME. They failed ME— THAT’S POSSIBLE! BUT THEN IF I SAY, They are to blame for MY sadness... MISERABLENESS... RESENTMENTS, BITTERNESS, AND LACK OF JOY.... **NO!** JESUS FACED MORE BAD STUFF FROM FOLKS THAN WE CAN IMAGINE... BUT HE WAS NEVER RESENTFUL, BITTER, OR LACKING IN JOY! **AND TODAY,** HE LIVES IN YOU BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT... TO LIVE THROUGH YOU! **My own SIN or my own response to life, to others**— my choices, my thoughts, my words, my actions—these “alone” bring me misery and rob me of joy!

V. SIN SICKENS THE BODY: 51:8b ⁸*Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.* Sin leads to sickness of the body. No— not all physical and/or emotional sickness is directly due to our sin... **HOWEVER: I Corinthians 11:30.** David said sin had crushed his bones. Now he said God did it! PSALM 32. He broke God’s laws—reaped! Also, God was chastising His child!

VI. Ps. 51:10—Sin sours the Spirit. ¹⁰*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* Sin sours the Spirit— harsh, critical, unkind, faultfinding Spirit. We see this in King David after he sinned. David’s pastor came for a visit! Pastor Nathan told King David a story: **A rich man with many sheep; stole the one pet lamb of the poor man and killed it for a feast!** David— jumped up and said the man who would do such a thing as that will pay four fold. **NATHAN: Thou art the man!**

THE POINT: Here WAS a man with sin in his heart. See how harsh and judgmental he was!!!

People with sour spirits- critical and judgmental- in homes or churches are OFTEN SAD, GUILTY, HIDING, BACKSLIDDEN SAINTS. Blind to our own sin— blatantly judgmental against others for their REAL OR IMAGINED sin. SOME ARE SMILING AND HAPPY... UNTIL SO AND SO’S NAME IS MENTIONED! **It’s something to which we are all susceptible! David was!**

PICTURE THIS: YOU ARE STANDING BEFORE JESUS AND HE ASKS: 1. Do I have a right spirit toward my brothers and sisters in Christ. 2. Am I

receiving all my brothers and sisters IN THE SAME WAY as JESUS has received me? **3. EPH. 4: 29-32. (He IS present and asking....!!)**

VII. Ps. 51:14-15—sin seals the lips! ¹⁴*Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.* ¹⁵*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.* DAVID lost his song. His lips were sealed— He lost his testimony. When sin enters, praise exits! A CHRISTIAN right with God is naturally going to praise God... **So, sin:** sin soils the soul! Sin saturates the mind! Sin stings the conscience! Sin saddens the heart! Sin sickens the body! Sin sours the Spirit! Sin seals the lips!

BUT PRAISE GOD, Ps. 51 tells the way home— how fellowship can be restored:

1. Start with confidence that God loves you and will forgive you (Ps. 51:1). ¹*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.* **For our multitude of sin—a multitude of mercy!** For our great sin— God's greater grace! God loves you! He will forgive! Ps. 51 is here to instill confidence in your heart!

2. Confession— Ps. 51:2-5 ²*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!* ³*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.* ⁴*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.* **[YOU SAW IT ALL AND YOUR SENTENCE AGAINST ME IS JUST!]** ⁵*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Confidence without confession is not enough. Have you made a good confession?

I am a sinner: By practice—51:3-4; By nature—51:5. **Confession means to say with/to say the same as what God says about my sin! More than—“Yes, Lord, I did it!” It's, “Lord, I did it, it's wrong, it's horrible, it's against God.” NO EXCUSES!**

3. Ps. 51:7—cleansing. ⁷*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.* (A little shrub dipped in blood of sacrificial animal and sprinkle it upon people and priest—symbolized blood of Jesus. N.T. fulfillment ☐ (I John 1:7, 9)

Ps. 51:2—wash me/ cleanse me thoroughly. DAVID NOW SAW his soul as like a robe that needed to be cleansed. He desired not just pardon, but cleansing—no matter how painful.

I John 1:9—remove penalty (forgiveness)/remove pollution (cleanse).

By the way☐ have you ever thought about this: Nowhere in this Psalm does DAVID pray directly about sex, OR lying, OR murder? ☐ It all started with sex or lust, leading to deceit, leading to murder. Or did it? Sexual Sin was but a Symptom, Not the root! **QUOTE:** “People give way to sexual sin because they don’t have the fullness of joy and gladness in Christ. Their spirits are not steadfast and firm and established. They waver. They are enticed, and they give way because God does not have the place in our feelings and thoughts that he should.”

David is showing us, by the way he prays, what the real need is for those who sin sexually. Not a word in this psalm about sex. Instead: “Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. . . . Restore to me the joy of *your* salvation, and uphold me with a willing, firm, established spirit.” This is profound wisdom for us.

4. Ps. 51:12-13—consecration.¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.* ¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.* Lord, when you cleanse me, I’ll tell the good news— V. 13—preaching; V. 14—singing praise; V. 18—he begins to pray for Jerusalem! RESTORATION ☐ BRINGS PREACHING, SINGING AND PRAYING!

What IS lost by sin? Sin soils the soul; Saturates the mind; Stings the conscience; Saddens the heart; Sickens the body; Sours the Spirit; AND sin Seals the lips! HOWEVER, the Psalmist humbled himself and gave us Psalm 51 and 32! THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS to instill confidence in us that God will forgive the repentant!

Are there some today who are covering sin with very ingenious smoke-screens and alibis?

HOWEVER... your sin is ever with you: Soiling; Saturating; Stinging; Saddening Sickening; Souring; Sealing. **There is only one way to deal with sin:**

1. Come to Christ with confidence that He alone can forgive and cleanse and restore.
2. Come with repentant confession.
3. Come for refreshing cleansing.
4. Come in total consecration to Christ—51:17.

ABOUNDING Grace to all in Christ!
James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; IN THE CHURCH AUDITORIUM! ****

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— August 28 @ 11:00AM, led by Cindy Bell

*** SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! ***

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 31 ☐ Sunday Evening PRAISE!

1. 9:30am- Sunday School Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship

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

3. **NOON FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

4. **FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING PRAISE @ 6:00PM** Let us all come together with various ones sharing Scriptures, sharing testimonies, singing unto the LORD: solo; duet; trio; quartet; ensemble; congregation.

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>

NOTE: It would require at least 3 more Newsletters to complete the printing of **the Church constitution and by-laws**. We do not plan to do that. You can see the entire constitution and by-laws by requesting an email copy; OR by requesting a PRINTED COPY. **SOUTHSIDERS: If any portion of the document leaves you with questions— feel free to inquire. We will listen and seek understanding.**