



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No. 50, December 16 , 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."***

BEWARE! GRINCHES AND SCROOGES ARE ON THE LOOSE!

When it comes to giving Jesus Christ preeminence and adoration— month after month **GRINCHES AND SCROOGES are everywhere, stealing Christ out of hearts... or confining Him to a small corner of our lives! IT HAPPENS TO MULTITUDES! We win one battle, get lax, and get defeated in the next. VIGILANCE is required! Presently it's December:** Don't let the massive winter holiday system steal away AWE, WONDER, CELEBRATION, and genuine WORSHIP of the LORD JESUS CHRIST! Just below are verses that show the New Testament Christians rejoicing in the coming of Jesus Christ. **O come, let us join in with them and worship JESUS CHRIST THE LORD!**

*"And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us (**and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**), full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift." (2 Cor. 9:15)

"...Jesus Christ: Who being in the form of God,...took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men... He humbled Himself... unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:1-11)

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **GOD WAS**

MANIFEST IN THE FLESH..." (1 Tim. 3:16)

DECEMBER 2014— Let us give preeminent FOCUS to the absolutely astounding: The Birth of Christ is about JESUS coming to become the sinner's substitute and sin bearer because WE SINNERS desperately need a Saviour!

God came in the flesh to save undeserving rebels (That's us!) from the just and eternal wrath of God in hell! He came to set rebels free from self, sin, and satan. He gives us new hearts and makes us His own sons and daughters. He makes us His servants, His friends, His saints, and His co-laborers— **"O Come, let US adore HIM!" Should we not burst forth in awe and wonder?**

And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain— For me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
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'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies: Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray— I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Still the small inward voice I hear, That whispers all my sins forgiven;
 Still the atoning blood is near, That quenched the wrath of hostile Heaven.
I feel the life His wounds impart; I feel the Savior in my heart.
 I feel the life His wounds impart; I feel the Savior in my heart.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
 Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach th' eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ
 my own.

Bold I approach th' eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ
 my own. (Words by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788) **LISTEN/ join in the
 singing HERE:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzDes9IVdzg>

**OH, HOW CLEAR it is that God ordained celebrations are never an
 escape from reality.** Rather, in the midst of the stark realities of life in a
 fallen world, God sends salvation— and the result is peace and
 CELEBRATION! Not as the world gives; but peace that surpasses all
 comprehension!

SPEAKING OF REALITY: Most folk in the first century found no reason to
 rejoice in the Advent of Messiah. **But they did find reason to crucify
 Him! Why? Because He exposed their sin, which they loved!** Those
 who do not believe they are sinners under the just and holy wrath of
 Almighty God will never welcome and celebrate JESUS ONLY!

**Man-made seasons come and go. However, for those who have
 been broken over their sin— they never GET OVER the Advent of
 Christ!** “Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift.” (2 Corinthians
 9:15) “**And without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: GOD
 WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH...” (1 Tim. 3:16)

**The miracle of God come in the flesh was something about which
 the first Christians just could not stop rejoicing! BEWARE!** In
 December 2014, when it comes to giving Jesus Christ preeminence and
 adoration— GRINCHES AND SCROOGES are everywhere, stealing Christ
 out of hearts!

To overcome the prevailing “spirits which RULE the season”—Turn to the Word of God! COME AND DINE! When we truly partake of this grand feast, we will overflow with praise, worship and **THANKSGIVING for and loving obedience to **GOD’S “Unspeakable Gift!”****

‘THANKS BE UNTO GOD’ FOR— 24 REASONS Why JESUS Came!

- 1. To reveal God the Father to man:** No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, **He hath declared Him**, (John 1:18). **And he that seeth me seeth Him** that sent me, (John 12:45). Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **He that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father, (John 14:9)?
- 2. Because God the Father sent him:** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father hath sent me**, even so send I you, (John 20:21, John 3:16-17; 6:38).
- 3. To be the Saviour of the world:** And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world**, (1 John 4:14).
- 4. To preach the kingdom of God:** And He said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, **that I may preach** there also: for therefore came I forth, (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43).
- 5. To bear witness to the truth:** Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, **and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth**. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice, (John 18:37).
- 6. To be a light in the world: I am come a light into the world**, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness, (John 12:46).

7. To fulfill the law: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill, (Matthew 5:17).

8. To do the will of His Father: For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him** that sent me, (John 6:38).

9. To be a divider of men: Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: **I came not to send peace, but a sword.** For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law, (Matt 10:34, 35)

10. To seek and save those who are lost: For the Son of man is come to **seek and to save that which was lost**, (Luke 19:10).

11. To call sinners to repentance: When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance**, (Mark 2:17).

12. To save sinners... really bad ones: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief, (1 Timothy 1:15).** For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village, (**Luke 9:56**). For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved, (John 3:17).

13. To minister and to give His life a ransom for many: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many, (Matthew 20:28).

14. To finish the work of the Father: Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work**, (John 4:34; John 17:4).

15. To be the propitiation for our sins: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, **and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**, (1 John 4:10).

16. To put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself: For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared **to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**, (Hebrews. 9:26).

17. To take away our sins: And ye know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**: and in Him is no sin, (1 John 3:5).

18. To die upon the Cross: Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: **but for this cause came I** unto this hour, (John 12:27).

19. To redeem those under the law, that they might receive adoption of sons: But when the fullness of the time was come, **God sent** forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **To redeem them** that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons, (Galatians 4:4, 5).

20. That we might live through Him: In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent** His only begotten Son into the world, **that we might** live through Him, (1 John 4:9).

21. That we might have life and have it more abundantly: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that** they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly, (John 10:10).

22. To bless us: Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, **sent him to bless you**, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities, (Acts 3:26).

23. To destroy the works of the devil: He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested**, that He might destroy the works of the devil, (1 John 3:8).

24. To make it possible for the righteousness of the law to be fulfilled in us through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God**

sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, (Romans 8:3, 4).

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOUR! Don't let the holiday "Grinch/Scrooge" system steal CHRIST! CHOOSE THE JOY, WONDER and CELEBRATION of Jesus Christ UNTIL He comes back!

DECEMBER 2014 and every month— Dare to FOCUS ON the utterly amazing: God came in the flesh to save undeserving rebels from sin, satan and from the just and eternal wrath of God in hell! **He came to Bethlehem on the way to Calvary** so as to set undeserving rebels free and to make them His own sons and daughters, servants, friends, saints, and co-laborers! **AMAZING!**

AGAIN: The Birth of Christ is about JESUS coming to become the sinner's substitute and sin bearer because WE SINNERS desperately need a Saviour! **Ultimately,** the Birth of Christ is about salvation from ultimate and eternal destruction and salvation into the family of God! WOW!

When we are broken over our sin— we can never GET OVER the Advent of Christ! "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15) "**And without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH..." (1 Tim. 3:16)

AS AN OVERFLOW OF DELIGHTING in JESUS CHRIST our LORD— may it also be seen in the setting aside of **EXTRA LOVE OFFERINGS for the work and ministry of MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD!**

Jesus left heaven and came to earth on the GREATEST, most costly missionary journey of all time— to save sinners! **CHRISTIANS have the high calling of God in Christ Jesus to LIVE the gospel and TAKE the gospel to the world, from Gallatin/Sumner County to the ends of the earth.**

LET US PRAY, WORSHIP, GIVE, and LIVE for the furtherance of the Gospel!

Grace to all! James Bell

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 Ladies Sunday School Room!**

**** 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

****** NOTE: WEDNESDAY, 12/24, --** We realize that many will be traveling, many will have family events— thus, **NO CLASSES, NO SERVICE AT CHURCH.....**

→HOWEVER:

→IF there are any who would like to GATHER for a PRAYER AND PRAISE service from 6:00PM to 7:00PM— → Call the church office→ by 12/21: 615-452-5951

→ LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Resumes January 8, 11:00am, New Study: The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching

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

UPCOMING December Sundays:

THIS SUNDAY!

***** 12/21— Annual Fellowship BRUNCH @ 9:30am:**

1. Start arriving in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am... have all 'breakfast/brunch-type foods' on the tables... SO THAT WE CAN START PROMPTLY at 9:30am)

2. Followed by 10:45am Morning Worship; concluding with the LORD'S SUPPER.

[No lunch]

NOTE; [12/21 Evening Home Groups... The group at the ALLENS will meet!]

***** SUNDAY, 12/28—**

1. 9:30am Sunday School

2. 10:45am Worship Service

No lunch or afternoon service