



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 4, January 27 , 2015 / 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."***

ENTER INTO THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW! (This article was developed from a written sermon by R. E. Lee, 1886-1978, pastor at Bellevue Baptist, Memphis, 1927-1960)

*This past Saturday morning, we awoke to a BEAUTIFUL SNOW... all stacked up on every limb of every tree; and almost totally covering all grass in our back yard. AGAIN, this evening, it has been snowing. SO, THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED again, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow....?" (Job 38:22) Some translations have Job 38:22a as, "Have you entered into the treasury or the storehouse of the snow?" In either case this question is one of many that God asked, as God was revealing His great awesomeness to Job. The end result of God's overpowering revelation of Himself to Job was that Job was brought **to humility before God, a holy reverence of God, and a fresh faith/obedience to God.** As we drink deeply of and receive the treasures of the snow, the Holy Spirit will work a similar transformation in our lives!*



What a wonderful way to get ready for the second month of the year 2015 as a Body of Believers! God is calling all Southsiders and saints in other places to ***enter into the TREASURES OF THE SNOW!***

THE SNOW REVEALS THE POWER OF UNITY, HARMONY, AND TEAMWORK!

A snowflake! It seems to have no weight. Certainly, it seems to have no power. **What can a snowflake do?** By itself, nothing! Silently it falls. It is easily swallowed up. It disappears, melts, and in a fleeting moment it's forever gone. HOWEVER, when divinely ordered conditions are just right and these tiny, powerless, beautiful nothings fall ***in concert with other snowflakes*** by the billions and trillions— **what happens?** When these tiny soldiers move out from their cloud tents and marshal their innumerable white battalions and march with silent tread across the face of the earth— **what then?**

They defeat the armies of men! **They** bring to standstill mighty locomotives!

They block all the roads and tie up all the traffic systems! **They** can gather in avalanche formation on the mountains and sweep away or bury all that cross their awesome path!

A Snowflake! Just a tiny mite, a flimsy flake— HOWEVER, when they unite in TEAMWORK they are awesome in beauty and overpowering in strength! **O what a powerful sermon the silent snowfall preaches!**

A tiny snowflake is a sermon about,

The power of unity;

The beauty of harmony; and

The accomplishment possible only by teamwork! God says to the snow, ***'Be thou on the earth!'*** And they begin to march in one accord!

Application: For **SOUTHSIDE**, (or for your Local Church!), **to be a mighty expression of God's beauty and power**— we must enter into the treasures of the snow's submission, unity, harmony, and teamwork! (Psalm 133:1-3; Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:42-47; 4:23-32; Philippians 1:27; 2:3-5; 2:14-16)

In the Christian Church and Home, God commands individual Christians in paths of submission, unity, harmony, and teamwork!

We are under command to love one another, depend on one another, be devoted to one another, rejoice with one another, weep with one another, receive one another, counsel and/or admonish one another, serve one another, be kind to one another, forgive one another, encourage one another, in honor prefer one another, submit to one another, be clothed with humility to one another, don't speak evil of one another, don't grumble against one another, confess our own faults and not the faults of others to one another, bear one another's burdens, pray for one another, etc.

REALITY: **We cannot obey these commands without** spending regular and significant time with one another, getting to know, listening to and serving one another. **We must** have the 'eyes' of our hearts open to one another; **we must** communicate our joys, fears, and needs to one another.

We cannot IGNORE these commands without sinning against the greatest commandment, which is to love! **We can ignore these commands** and be successful with religion, but all the while zeros in God's sight!

We would do well to remember that the way we treat a fellow Christian, what we say about a fellow Christian, Acts 9:1-5, is how we are treating and speaking of Jesus!

CONSIDER: Snowflakes are individually formed by God. We are told that no two are alike. Yet when God sends them to cover the earth, once they land upon a tree limb, or upon the top of a fence post, or on a roof top, or on the plain earth— **there they lose their individual beauty to join with all other snowflakes for the master design of God's purpose.** Placed in a fashion that pleases God, they are all teamed up, giving forth

wonder, power, and beauty through submission, harmony, unity, and teamwork! (Meditate deeply upon 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4)

REALITY: Merely attending a church service is not the same as being submitted one to another and being teamed up in harmony, unity, and teamwork!

THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW REVEAL THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD!

Snowflakes delight to do their Master's bidding. The great secret of their power is that they have no will but His! ***We have never walked out into a snowfall and heard snowflakes arguing, or complaining, or criticizing, or pouting, or slandering, or being self-focused/selfish, or getting their feelings hurt, or being bitter, or refusing to stay where the Master Designer placed them!*** We have never seen snowflakes refusing to be team-players! **WHY NOT?**

Snowflakes move at HIS command! Do I? Do we? Miracles of amazing LOVE PROGRESS are as simple as submission!

Here are some COMMANDS of JESUS for His Local Churches: 1 Corinthians 12:4-26; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:15-16. As the hymn writer says,
We'll move at His command,
We'll soon possess the land,
Through loyalty, loyalty,
Yes, loyalty to Christ!"

CRITICAL ALERT!

There is no loyalty to Christ if we choose to reject His method!
The method of Jesus is a local assembly, a body of believers in ONE ACCORD:

ONE ACCORD is not about perfect uniformity on secondary doctrine. (Secondary— you or I can be wrong about it and still get to heaven!) **ONE ACCORD is much more than** the absence of conflict. **Being in ONE ACCORD** does not require that we like another's personality or whatever!

There is one vital secret to being in ONE ACCORD— namely, that of being in submission one to another in the fear of God! (Ephesians 5:21) God is calling SOUTHIDE and all of **His Local Churches** to a FRESH

REVIVAL of the ONE ACCORD which is modeled in the book of Acts and taught in the Epistles.

ONE ACCORD: JESUS is calling us to be in one accord **in** Prayer, **in** Worship, **in** Bible Study, **in** sharing and in meeting each other's needs, **in** proclaiming the gospel, **and in** submission to one another in the fear of God.

The more we die to selfishness and selfish ambition and only have a passion for JESUS to be glorified— all the more being in One Accord becomes easy!

CHRISTIAN: When God saved you, He did so individually. But enter into the *Treasures of the Snow*— God creates and sends every individual snowflake; but then He places them **in concert, in one accord**, with other snowflakes to accomplish grand, beautiful, and powerful purposes. (1 Corinthians 12 & 13)

This is even greater reality when it comes to His church. The saved are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit and sovereignly placed by God in local assemblies. (1 Corinthians 12) BEING JOINED TO a local assembly is a most sacred placement. **WOE unto any who tear apart a local assembly:**

“If anybody defiles, desecrates, ruins the temple of God, him shall God destroy/ruin; FOR the temple of God is HOLY/SACRED, which temple you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:17... the last ‘you’ is plural... The Holy Spirit is speaking of a local temple/body of believers)

Critical note: Unity in a local assembly of saints in Christ is not a goal to be sought after— **unity is God-given reality which we** are commanded by JESUS to strive to maintain our God-given unity! (Eph. 4:1-6)

Therefore, (unless we are proud, selfish, and backslidden), **when we as individual Christians make decisions in life, we will be primarily concerned** about glorifying Christ and His church.

We will be concerned about how our individual decisions and choices will impact the local assembly in which Jesus has placed us as edifying members. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:5)

We will heed the voice of the Master who has ordained that local churches function ***as bodies in concert and not as selfish members in solo.*** **THUS, we will experience** the fruit of members in obedience to God.

What is that fruit? Awesome manifestations of love by which the world knows that we are His disciples! Moreover, in CONCERT we fill our towns with the gospel and turn our worlds upside down, even as did the early church!

THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW REVEAL ABUNDANT GRACE FOR SINNERS!

How quickly and beautifully the snow transforms the black housetop, the garbage heap, and the mud hole! Now they are all pure white and sculptured with incredible symmetry!

But more than just the beauty of the moment, the treasures of the snow silently shout, “Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!” (Romans 5:20; 6-8; John 3:16)



“God paints the sky blue, the sunset red, the leaves green, and then golden, and the flowers are an endless variety of color. **But when God paints his Masterpiece, He sends the snow and paints everything glorious white!”**

However, that is only a small picture of the amazing, abundant, and purifying grace of God in Christ! **“Come now, and let us reason**

together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as WHITE AS SNOW;...!" (Isaiah 1:18)

God takes the vilest sinner, (grossly contaminated with sin and deserving of hell!) and makes him/her clean, cleansed, forgiven, and as white as snow by the precious blood of Jesus!

O sinner, flee to Christ! O saint in Christ, rejoice!
"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool!" **"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."**

*Hear the voice that entreats you, **O return ye unto God!***

He is of great compassion, And of wondrous love;

*Hear the voice that entreats you, **O return ye unto God!***

He'll forgive your transgressions, And remember them no more;

"Look unto Me, ye people," *Saith the Lord your God!*

He'll forgive your transgressions, And remember them no more."

(From Fanny Crosby)

LET US MAKE THE FOLLOWING OUR PRAYER AND PRAISE:

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want Thee forever to live in my soul.

Break down every idol, cast out every foe; Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Refrain: Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow. Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, let nothing unholy remain, Apply Thine own blood and extract ev'ry stain; To get this blest cleansing, I all things forego— Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus, look down from Thy throne in the skies, And help me to make a complete sacrifice. I give up myself, and whatever I know, Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat, I wait, blessèd Lord, at Thy crucified feet. By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow, Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus, Thou seest I patiently wait, Come now, and within me a new heart create; To those who have sought Thee, Thou never saidst “No,” Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **Refrain**

The blessing by faith, I receive from above; O glory! my soul is made perfect in love; My prayer has prevailed, and this moment I know, The blood is applied, I am whiter than snow.

Refrain: Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow. Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (By James Nicholson)

GRACE TO ALL IN CHRIST! James Bell

Note: Editions of this message have been preached and printed on several occasions over the last 39+ years. Gleaning **Treasures from the Snow** is more important than ever if we are to freshly commit ourselves to God and to His ‘ONE ACCORD’ ways!

No single factor has so limited the work of God in place after place [Local Churches and Homes!] as has the lovelessness of selfish individualistic, lone-ranger attitudes.

None of us are guiltless!

None of us are immune to the dread disease of despising God’s ONE ACCORD and ONE ANOTHER methods!

HOWEVER, God has an awesome sermon to bring radical healing—

LET US ENTER INTO THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW!

The end result of God’s overpowering revelation of Himself to Job was that Job was brought to

A fresh humility before God,

A fresh holy reverence of God

And a fresh faith/obedience to God.

May it be so among us!

Grace to one and 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

☐ LADIES BIBLE STUDY— February 5, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 17 - Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

*** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in 1 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!}

***** SUNDAYS— February 1, 8, __, 22**

1. 9:30am Sunday School
2. 10:45am Worship Service
3. Noon— Fellowship, Covered-dish lunch
4. 1:00pm— Early afternoon worship service

***** SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 15**

1. 9:30am Sunday School
2. 10:45am Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER

3. Noon— No meal; No 1pm service

4. 5:00pm— HOME FELLOWSHIP/BIBLE STUDY GROUPS