



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No.13, March 31 , 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."***

RESURRECTION SUNDAY— Celebrating JESUS CHRIST the LORD!

I grew up celebrating Easter. We had Easter egg hunts, girls wore Easter bonnets, and everyone dressed up for Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday, pastors read Scripture about the resurrection of Christ and then, (even though the Bible never connected the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus with Easter), the pastors preached about the 'Easter Event'... as if they were one and the same. I trusted them. I believed them. And, like the masses, I never once 'checked out' what I was taught by the Word of God!

However, during college days I began to be struck with the reality that the Bible really is the Word of God. I did not know the term, **'Sola Scriptura'**— but I now know that is what I began to embrace: **"That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, and is to be interpreted, in its own light, and with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27), by each individual for himself; with the assistance, though not by the authority, of his fellow Christians."** (A.A. Hodge) Thus, I have no authority to add to or subtract from the Word of God; and therefore I must be on a lifelong pilgrimage of studying the Word of God and of heeding the Word of God! (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:13-17)

From the Word of God I discovered that when it comes to commemorating 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 are going to take our cue from the New Testament, we will do as the New Testament Christians did! **John Stott in his book on the Cross** makes the insightful point that the LORD'S SUPPER 'dramatizes neither His birth, nor his life, nor His words, nor His works— **but only His death.**" **[I would add that** because we are to observe the LORD'S SUPPER '**until He Comes**'... THUS, the Lord's Supper INCLUDES the whole redemption drama, set forth in shadow by the Seven Feasts of the LORD in the Old Testament!]

It may sound strange to us, but the New Testament Christians did not commemorate Christ's death and resurrection by Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, **Service of Darkness, Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday,** Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday!

These are all religious customs and traditions which have basically come to us through Roman Catholicism. In reality, many of these beloved customs were borrowed from other religions and then *christianized*. In varying degrees many Protestants have further adapted them.

None of these are in or from the Bible! In contrast and with astounding simplicity, **JESUS SAID— "...This Do In Remembrance of Me."** (Luke 22:19)

Think about it: Whenever the world wants to get their point across or promote their product, they spend mega-bucks; they put on a Big Show and DAZZLE the physical senses.

More often than not, Christian Religion follows in that train, as they seek to build impressive earthly kingdoms. Thus, at Christendom's grand calendar moments of Christmas and Easter, she is on dazzling display.

And for the masses, Sola Scriptura must not be applied— it gets in the way of much loved traditions.

But again and in great contrast, Jesus calls His Church to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words, "...THIS DO In Remembrance of Me." And as you know, the LORD'S SUPPER is amazingly simple in its elements, and in what is required to carry out our LORD'S command. The LORD'S SUPPER is equally within the reach of the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, the famous and the forgotten.

ESPECIALLY THIS WEEK— LET US 'MAKE MUCH OF' THE LAMB OF GOD! WITHOUT any artificial enticements or inducements, the pure Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit are ready to carry us to the most ultimate heights of wonder and awe as we come to the LORD'S TABLE, this Sunday, April 5, during the 10:45am worship service.

In preparation for the LORD'S SUPPER let us all meditate deeply upon the following:

It Took Just One— Once (Hebrews 9:26)

What Christ meant to do on the cross, He accomplished. He did not die in vain; He died with no part of His work left undone. He did not die to make us savable; He died to save us. He did not die that sin might be vanquished by some effort of our own; He died to vanquish sin Himself— once and forever. **One** death. **One** sacrifice. **One** atonement. **One** cross. *The whole gospel was hung on the cross.* One price and purchase. **One** cross and crown. **One** death and deliverance. **One, and only once.** *The Savior said victoriously, "It is finished!"*

I. One Person—"He" ☐ Who was He? He was very God of very God. He was commissioned by the Father to vanquish sin (John 6:4). He was the Messiah, pledged by God's covenant to deliver His people (John 1:41). He was chosen (1 Pet. 1:20). God didn't send a mighty angel. He didn't send a mighty army. He didn't send a mighty man. He sent **His Son**— Himself.

II. One Period—"Appeared Once" ☐ He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem; The infinite linked with the Infant. He who laid out the

heavens, now lay upon a woman's breast. He invaded time and history. He came as the God-Man. He was unique. No one was like Him in the past. No one was like Him in the present. No one would be like Him in the future. *He appeared once.*

He is "*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince of Peace*" (Isa. 9:6). He is King of kings. He chose not to stay on His throne. He came to earth for one brief period of time.

III. Grand Purpose—"To Do Away with Sin" □ A. Sin and Its Presence: Sin is a reality for fallen man (Rom. 3:23). B. Sin and Its Price: Sin cannot be tolerated by a just and holy God, as sin is contrary to His perfect nature.

1. Separation and reconciliation. Sin, producing enmity between God and man, requires atonement for the restoration of man's relationship with God (Rom. 5:10).

2. Condemnation and satisfaction (Rom. 5:18; 6:23; 8:1). Sin's satisfaction is what we celebrate as we gather at His Table. As we partake of the elements, representing His body and blood given in atonement for our sin, let us receive with assurance the benefits of His grace. As believers we have been redeemed and restored in our never-ending relationship with the Prince of Peace.

IV. One Payment—"Once for All . . . the Sacrifice" □ In the Old Testament, the sacrifice was a personal, spiritual encounter with God. Sacrifices were offered to satisfy God, who was present in judgment and mercy. A blood sacrifice was demanded. This had to be repeated time and again.

Jesus' perfect sacrifice accomplished "once for all" all God demanded as the payment for our sin. No longer would other sacrifices be required. In Holy Communion, we remember all Christ has accomplished for us in His sacrificial death. (This section is edited from Jim Henry, *In Remembrance of Me.*)

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER: *Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the Supper. Take away any unbelief and overcome any doubts that I may have. Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart that the words "for you" truly are for me. Amen.*

Whenever we come to the Lord's Supper, we should remind ourselves of why we come and what we expect to find here.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord on the same night in which He was betrayed. It is to be observed in His church to the world's end, for a perpetual remembrance of Him and to show forth the sacrifice of Himself in His death. It was instituted also to encourage saints in the belief that all the benefits stemming from Christ's sacrifice belong to them.

Furthermore, it is meant to promote our spiritual nourishment and growth in Christ, and to strengthen the ties that bind us to all the duties we owe to Him. The Lord's Supper is also a bond and pledge of the fellowship which believers have with Christ and with one another.

In the supper the body and blood of Christ are present to the faith of believers, **not in any actual physical way**, but in a way of calling us to remember the once and for all sacrifice of our LORD at Calvary.

Our faith is called upon to focus upon the COMPLETE work of redemption — the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and HE IS COMING BACK!

In short: The Supper is a remembrance of Him. [Luke 22:19] The Supper is our communion with Him. [1 Cor. 10:16] The Supper is our fellowship with the body of Christ and especially the local body. [1 Cor. 11:18, 20] The Supper is a commemoration of His death. [1 Cor. 11:26]

SHOULD I TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Christ's invitation to the Supper is for me if I am presently repenting of my sin and trusting Christ for salvation.

WHY SHOULD I COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE?

Christ commands me to come! With this command He gives me this promise:

- As surely as I see with my eyes the bread broken and the cup given, so I know for certain that Christ became a real human being and poured out His blood on the cross.
- As surely as I take the bread and cup in my hand and taste them with my mouth, so I know for certain that Christ nourishes and refreshes my soul with His crucified body and blood. [Mt.26.26-28; 1 Cor. 11.23-25]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO EAT AND DRINK THE LORD'S SUPPER?

It means that I accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ for me. **It means that** by believing I am forgiven all my sins and now have eternal life. This is not magic. Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not wash away my sins. Only Christ can remove my sins, and that happens when by His grace I put my faith in Him.

WHAT BENEFITS THEN DO I RECEIVE BY COMING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?

My sins are exposed for what they really are before a Holy God. **My heart is inflamed** with love for Christ. **I am reminded** of all that He suffered for me. My faith in Christ is strengthened. I not only hear with my ears what He has done for me, but I can also see, smell, taste, and touch the tokens of His suffering and death on my behalf. My hope that one day I will live with Christ is made more certain.

Although His resurrection body is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and I am still here on earth, the Lord's Supper reinforces His promise that **He is coming back AND that** He will one day raise my mortal body and take me home to heaven to be with Him.

WHAT IF I KNOW THAT I'M NOT PERFECT? (I hope you DO know just that!)

I may come when I know myself to be a sinner and am displeased with myself because of my sin, yet come trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin. **I may come when** I know myself to be weak and in need of Christ to strengthen my faith and when I desire Him to enable me to live a better life.

WHY DOES JESUS USE BREAD AND DRINK?

Jesus is teaching me that, just as bread and drink nourish my temporal life here, so His crucified body and poured-out blood truly nourish my spiritual life.

Jesus uses this visible sign and pledge to assure me that all He has done for me in His perfect obedience, suffering, and death is certainly mine. I take the bread and the cup in my own hand and with my own mouth and am freshly assured **that what Jesus accomplished for sinners at Calvary is given to me personally.**

WHAT SHOULD I THINK AS THE ELEMENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED?

As I take the bread, I remember to thank God that Christ took up a human body; that He was tempted just as I am; that He was willing to suffer for me; that He lived a hard life in a poor family and that He was willing to be misunderstood.

As I take the cup, I remember to thank God that Jesus poured out His blood for me; that He saves me from the guilt of my sin; that He sets me free from the power of sin; that I now have the righteousness of Christ and that I will live and reign with Christ forever.

MORE RESOURCES FOR PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION: **The Penitential Psalms:** Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 // Isaiah 53, 55, 59 // Gospel of John 13-17 // Romans 3, 6, 8, 12

FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTION ON THE LORD'S SUPPER, READ:

Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689), Chapter 30
[<http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/bcf/bcf-30.html>]

(Edited from an article by Pastor John Olson)

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; Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room ****

NOTE: Jody Allen is ministering to **Children**, during Prayer Service.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH MEETING, 6:30pm led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— April 9, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 21-22 - 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 IN APRIL:

1. April 5— RESURRECTION SUNDAY:

9:30am— Church-wide BRUNCH in Fellowship hall.

(COME with 'Brunch Stuff' BETWEEN 9:00am and NO LATER than 9:25am; and

have everything ready to start EXACTLY at 9:30am)

10:45am— MORNING WORSHIP, concluded with **the LORD'S SUPPER!**

2. April 12— 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

NOON- Fellowship, Covered-dish meal

1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service

3. April 19— 9:30am- Sunday School; 10:45am- Worship Service & LORD'S SUPPER; NO noon meal. **HOME GROUPS @ 5:00pm**

4. April 26— 9:30am- Sunday School; 10:45am- Worship Service; NOON- Fellowship, Covered-dish meal; 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service