



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 26, June 30 , 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."***

OUR FOCUS: The Deepening Darkness or our Grand Assignment?

I. ANNOUNCEMENT and WARNING and INSTRUCTION TO ME, TO ONE AND ALL!

Here is an infallible Word from the SUPREME GOD, who alone rules over the one and only SUPREME COURT. **THE HEATHEN ARE RAGING! Psalm 2:1-3 (KJV)— Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

[NOTE: Long before the latest SCOTUS decision, **MULTITUDES in the churches** - pastors and people - have turned away from following JESUS and commonly reject HIS LORDSHIP... giving ONLY lip service... We continue to have GREAT CHURCHES and GREAT WORSHIP SERVICES (our opinion) and continue to live all too much for the world, the flesh, and the devil! **We seem to have forgotten one important detail:** GOD HAS

CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HATES, WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH WORSHIP (Example: Exodus 32; Isaiah 1:10-20)]

HERE IS 'WAKE-UP' REALITY: GOD IS GOING TO GET OUR ATTENTION!

Psalm 2:4-10, He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. **BE WISE NOW THEREFORE, O ye kings: be instructed,** ye judges of the earth.

[And pastors and congregations— for considering ALL OF OUR SIN and rebellion, this is not a DARK DAY primarily because of politicians and judges. RATHER: WE HAVE SINNED!

THEREFORE,] Psalm 2:11-12; Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. BLESSED ARE ALL THEY THAT PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.

[PS... The early Church, when persecuted, GATHERED FOR PRAYER, REJOICED in wonder and awe at the SOVEREIGNTY of God, **QUOTED Psalm 2 to God in prayer,** and then FOCUSED on praying for BOLDNESS to PREACH THE GOSPEL. (Acts 4:23-33) **Let us go and do likewise.]**

II. America's Supreme Court!

They and politicians both joined hands to empower the Non-affordable health care plan. **They have** voted in favor of 'so called gay marriage' which the SUPREME GOD only recognizes as an abomination. **Years earlier** they voted to exclude the SUPREME GOD from schools. **And they voted** to endorse the MURDER of MEGA-MILLIONS of children. BUT NOTE: Surveys reveal that most Americans favor the anti-Christ decisions which the courts and politicians have made. (61%, for example, favor gay marriage)

SO, THERE IS NO SURPRISE: The majority of the politicians are but a reflection of the majority of voters; and the politicians, put in place by the majority of the voters, voted in the judges. **THERE IS NO SURPRISE:** These are the kinds of decisions that GOD HATERS can be expected to make; and more are coming! **THIS MAY BE A SURPRISE TO MANY:** The world is getting darker and darker into the depths and dungeons of sin—just as it has done before and just as the Bible warns of as to the latter days. **THIS ALSO MAY BE A SURPRISE TO MANY:** The sincere Christian efforts to save America BY POLITICS have failed and were doomed to failure from the start. **WHY?**

These widely supported, MEGA, MEGA MILLION dollar 'Save America' efforts DIVERTED CHRISTIANS AWAY from the PRIMARY WAY we could make a TRANSFORMING DIFFERENCE in culture. **WHAT WOULD THAT BE?** FOR US TO REPENT OF THE DEEPENING GROSS SIN raging in the churches; and then go forth PREACHING the gospel while growing in radical Christ-likeness.

JESUS WARNED A LONG TIME AGO THAT when the salt loses saltiness it is FIT FOR NOTHING but to be trampled underfoot! Thus, this is not a day to blast the President or the Supreme Court; but, rather, a day for we

genuine Christians to WEEP over and REPENT of OUR OWN SINS. GOD'S JUDGMENT BEGINS with the people of God!

AGAIN: The sincere Christian efforts to save America BY POLITICS have failed, were doomed to failure from the start. WHY? As best I can find in the Word of God— saving America was never on God's agenda. In churches all across America we appealed to earthly patriotism loyalties more than and rather than loyalty to Christ, His gospel, and His agenda.

GOD'S AGENDA has been and is to SAVE A NUMBERLESS MULTITUDE of sinners out of every nation; teamed up as soldiers of Christ in the building of ONE HOLY NATION, the Church of Jesus Christ. **WHEN THIS IS ALL COMPLETE** the holy Wrath of God will be poured out on all the earth; and this present world will be destroyed and there will, at last, be a new heaven and new earth, etc.

INTERESTINGLY, only in moments of history when THE GOSPEL WAS PRIMARY, and the PREACHING OF THE CROSS was primary— (which resulted in GENUINE CONVERSIONS as great numbers of folk were TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL) — then, CULTURAL, POLITICAL issues were greatly impacted in the overflow. (Examples... The Acts of the Apostles; The Great Awakenings)

WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE CHRISTIANS TO DO?

First of all, CURSING the darkness, lamenting, and/or longing for the America that used to be; and/or speculating about the time of the END OF THE WORLD— these are diversions from our God ordained gospel labors!

OK, SO WHAT MUST WE CHRISTIANS BE DOING?

1. GO FORWARD EMBRACING our God-given ASSIGNMENT: In other words, let us live Christ like and preach the Gospel until Jesus calls us

home. (Drink deeply of the Epistles of the New Testament and the letters of Jesus to the churches in Revelation 2 & 3 for details of this assignment!}

2. LOOK AT HISTORY: When China EXPELLED all Christian missionaries and became super oppressive against the CHURCH— INSTEAD of the church disappearing, she began to grow. **The BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS has always been the SEED of the church.** The DEEPENING DARKNESS of 2015, are days of GRAND OPPORTUNITY for the GOSPEL to be lived and preached.

3. BOTTOM LINE— God has spoken: ***“THE DAYS ARE EVIL! REDEEM THE TIME!”*** [Meditate on Ephesians 5 and 6, for the specifics!]

WALK IN LOVE: Ephesians 5— Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

WALK IN LIGHT: For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: **“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”**

WALK IN WISDOM: See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

MARRIAGE— Christ and the Church: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.** For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **This is a great mystery,** but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

CHILDREN and PARENTS: Ephesians 6— Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” **And you, fathers,** do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants (SLAVES) and Masters: Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and

trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. **And you, masters,** do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD: Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God,** that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, **that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

CLEAR REALITY: These are serious, dark days in which we live. BUT AS WE CAN SEE from the Word of God— the world has always been in darkness. And the Christian’s CALLING is not to curse the darkness, nor to POINT disgusting or fearful fingers at those who are citizens of the darkness, NOR TO STOCKPILE guns and ammunition! **These are days to wholly embrace our God-given assignments, like those in Ephesians 5 and 6; and as in Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8.**

AND THESE ARE DAYS for repentance in the churches. OF COURSE, the truth of the Word of God is offensive to a lost world. IT IS MORE THAN TRAGIC that the Word of God is REJECTED even in Bible-believing churches. NEVERTHELESS, it is time for pastors and people—FOR US to repent of our own rampart sex sins, and other forms of ungodliness, unrighteousness, lovelessness, and bitterness so that we can **start ADORNING the gospel** before a watching world rather than blaspheming the gospel before a watching world. O GOD, WE HAVE FOUND THE CHIEF ENEMY AND PROBLEM OF THE BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCH AND IT IS ME, IT IS US! If godly Daniel could pray 'WE HAVE SINNED!'... Instead of 'they'... then, maybe we should pray like Daniel in chapter 9!

MAY GRACE ABOUND!

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: NOTE NEW TIME SCHEDULE!!**

☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities, led by Jody Allen

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— July 2, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 28 & 31; 2 Samuel 1; - 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 2 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building...

Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

☐ **July 5 & 12— 9:30am**, Sunday School / **10:45am**, Worship Service

Noon— Covered dish Meal / **1:00pm**, Early Afternoon Service

☐ **July 19— 9:30am**, Sunday School / **10:45am**, Worship Service **& the LORD’S SUPPER** / **No** meal or afternoon service / **HOME FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS in the evening**

☐ **July 26— 9:30am**, Sunday School / **10:45am**, Worship Service

Noon— Covered dish Meal / **1:00pm**, Early Afternoon Service

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SUMMER CAMP☐ JULY 6-10 // PRAY and PLAN!

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SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! Call— 615-452-5951