



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 32, August 11 , 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."***

A VITAL LESSON FROM A CHURCH and a TEENAGER!

George Barna, a sociologist and research expert, compared the lifestyles of Christians and non-Christians, using 131 different measures of attitudes, behaviors, values, and beliefs. His conclusion: ***"In the aspects of lifestyle where Christians can have the greatest impact on the lives of non-Christians, there were no visible differences between the two segments."***

"Our gospel," laments Dr. Henry Blackaby, ***"is cancelled by the way we live."***

In the New Testament era, Christians were exhorted to not cause the gospel to be BLASPHEMED! Rather, they were to 'adorn' the gospel:

**** 1 Timothy 6:1— *Let all who are under the yoke as bond servants esteem their own [personal] masters worthy of honor and fullest respect, so that the name of God and the teaching [about Him] may not be brought into disrepute and blasphemed.*** (Amplified Bible)

**** Titus 2:4-5 — ... admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.****

** Titus 2:9-10 — ... *Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, **that they may ADORN the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.***

** In the Old Testament era, King David's sin gave the enemies of God great occasion to blaspheme the holy Name of God! (2 Sam. 12:14) **In powerful contrast, holy living adorns the gospel of Christ!** (Titus 2:10)

** **In Hebrews 3:12-13, we are exhorted — *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***

** **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, **but admonishing** (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.* (Amplified Bible)

HERE'S REALITY:

THERE EXISTS A GREAT CHASM between the genuinely saved who are now in Christ and in the Kingdom of LIGHT **VS** those who are yet lost and still abiding in the black night of the Kingdom of Darkness.

QUESTION:

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR LIGHT TO IMPACT, (EXPOSE, DEMINISH, DESTROY), DARKNESS?

The prevailing wisdom of the day goes something like this: **(1)** You go into the Darkness and see what the slaves of darkness like and love. **(2)** You mimic what they like and love; **(3)** with some 'lite' gospel mixed in! Why? Because those in the dark hate the light. They love darkness! Give them what they like, with a mixture of light— but not too much light! Masses

are flocking to this method in varying degrees, because it is successful! This is not a new strategy!

The prophets of Jeremiah's day used it. The people loved the false prophets and their message! They hated Jeremiah.

They were led to believe that they could be true worshippers of God and keep their idols. That's what the false prophets, (and compromisers like Aaron, Exodus 32:4-5), always say!

Exodus 32:4-5 — *And he [Aaron] received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "**Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.**"*

SADLY, many in the churches still hate truth-tellers; love the 'feel-good' compromisers; and embrace false teachers. BUT KNOW THIS: GOD'S METHOD IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE COMMON METHODS OF RELIGION!

GOD IS LIGHT! THUS, the brighter and the more consistent the light and life of Jesus Christ shines through us— the more the darkness is over powered! God is calling us to "let the light shine!"

OUR OPTIONS IN THIS NEW TESTAMENT ERA:

RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINMENT followed by Emotional Manipulation and a bad eternity! **OR:** *"There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!"*

**** POPULAR OPTION, the BROAD-WAY CHURCH SUPER HIGHWAY— RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINMENT and EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION,** having many variations:

In many Evangelical circles today the culture-wise pastors and other leaders tell us that people's attention span is short. So, they pay big bucks

for all manner of exciting entertainment venues because they must get the crowd to come.

Then once they have the crowd and they have entertained them for a while, the professional entertainer, (who may be a preacher or an evangelist or a comedian or a sports hero or an illusionist, etc.), **MUST** next **DRAW THE NET!**

They have to go for 'the close'— they have to manipulate the emotions of the crowd and get them down the aisle.

Next, they guide them through a 'sinner's prayer'... which is followed by human pontification that all such ones who pray the prayer are **SAVED!** (Conviction of sin and repentance— the life giving work of the Holy Spirit is by-passed.)

Sadly, in short order, from 75-90% of all these deceived souls soon go back to their normal living for sin, self, satan, and society lifestyles. **UNLESS** they are later savingly brought to Christ— they die and go to hell. **ALARMING: The professional religionists know all about these deadly stats; however, they will not change their methods. They just gear up for the next big show.**

The above method, or variations of it, may indeed build an impressive harlot; but not the Bride of Christ.

MOREOVER, REGARDLESS OF 'ATTENTION SPAN'... What the lost really need to witness is REALITY. They need to **SEE** genuine Christians who are seeking to live holy lives, whose lives overflow with love, with forgiveness, with kindness, and who love Jesus and His Word and who live with a holy boldness for Christ; **AND** they need the **GOSPEL** of God revealed and quickened unto them— for **SALVATION** is not a **MERE** decision of man.

**** THE 'NARROW WAY' of God's Gospel— made POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, and ATTRACTIVE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT! HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GENUINELY TRANSFORMING ADULT AND YOUTH PROGRAM IN A LOCAL CHURCH; AND THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD UPON ONE TEENAGER!**

"There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God;

and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!"

Cornelis Aertsz de Man lived in the Netherlands. Around the year 1544-45, Cornelis witnessed an Anabaptist being burned at the stake, for refusing to recant and bow to Romanism. In the flames the man prayed for his tormentors.

Cornelis, age 14, was so moved by such a beautiful faith that he searched and FOUND A HOME where a local assembly of Anabaptists were having Bible study. **"Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word, their joy in life and their concern for love and moral integrity all excited him."**

WISELY, that local congregation did not march Cornelis off to a youth fun and games department— they had no such department. They possessed and were POSSESSED BY ONE TREASURE— the GOSPEL of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! THUS, immediately, Cornelis was right in the mix of all the adults who were seriously studying God's Word! INDEED, their adult, youth, and children's program was all the same: THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD and by the power of the Holy Spirit, sinners are converted to Christ; and then, they were DISCIPLED. THUS, within a few weeks Cornelis was converted, baptized, and being disciplined.

BY AGE 17 he was so strong in the faith that the powerful Roman Catholic institution leaders thought if they could capture Cornelis and get him to recant— then, they could make a major dent in the Anabaptist movement.

They captured Cornelis and threw him in prison. Day after day they sought to get him to recant. They tortured him mercilessly. Finally, they brought him into a castle court room where they lined the walls with Romanists priests. There they promised that **if only Cornelis would renounce his simple Biblical faith** and return to the state Romanist church that he would be give a FUTURE OF POSITION AND HONOR. Cornelis calmly replied:

"There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!"

Over and over and day after day, Cornelis stunned and overwhelmed the learned preachers with his Christ-like spirit and powerful speaking forth the truth of Scripture. They mercilessly tortured him until at about age 21, being convinced that he would not recant, they burned him at the stake.

HOWEVER, all that burning did was to RUSH Cornelis into the presence of JESUS: ***Cornelis was absent from the body and PRESENT with the LORD for all ETERNITY!*** MOREOVER, his martyrdom fanned the flames of the GOSPEL to spread even more! (Time and again, the persecution/martyrdom of Christians has been but the SEED of the Church!) **BOTTOM LINE:** The above account of how Jesus builds His Church is much like reading what is found in the Acts of the Apostles. WHICH METHOD WILL WE EMBRACE AND WILL WE PROMOTE?

1. RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINMENT followed by Emotional Manipulation; and all too often a bad eternity!

2. OR: The way modeled in the Acts of the Apostles; and by an Anabaptist being burned at the stake... praying for his tormentors; and by an Anabaptist church overflowing with, "... witness of faith,... serious study of the Word, ... joy in life and ... concern for love and moral integrity..."; and by a 17 year old (about 3 years old in the LORD) setting forth a powerful, godly witness:

"There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!"

[The above historical account is drawn from the 1978 book, **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH: Fifteen Young People Who were not Afraid to Die for their Faith**, by Myron S. Augsburger]

Abounding 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:

- ☐ **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— NEXT, AUGUST 13, 11:00am, The Life of David! 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 ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES!

AUGUST 16:

9:30am, Sunday School

10:45am, Worship Service / LORD'S SUPPER

NO noon meal or afternoon service.

SEVERAL **HOME GROUPS** MEET AT VARIOUS TIMES, generally during the THIRD SUNDAY weekend! Inquire! Be a part!

AUGUST 23:

9:30am, Sunday School

10:45am, Worship Service; plus **Noon**— Covered dish Meal

[SPECIAL NOTE: No 'Early Afternoon Service. At 6:00pm UNTIL 7:30pm we will participate in the Bledsoe Baptist Association's 'ON MISSION CONNECTION'... We will have 2 Southern Baptist Missionaries! PLEASE SET ASIDE THIS TIME!]

AUGUST 30:

9:30am, Sunday School

10:45am, Worship Service // NO noon meal or afternoon service.

[SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING OF PRAISE— 6:00PM]

We gather as a body of believers to PRAISE THE LORD through the sharing of various songs, hymns, Scripture songs; by sharing Scriptures and testimonies.



SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!*

For over 30 years one of the outreach ministries of Southside Baptist Church, (1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee), has been and is **Southside Christian School**, (SCS). **For the 2015-2016 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades.**

Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.*** **Ask yourself:** Is it wise for a child to spend 7-8 hours per day, 180 days a year for 12 or more years in an educational system that IS NOT ALLOWED to encourage your Christian values? **At Southside Christian School— we team up with Christian families who desire Christian Education.**

There are growing problems with drugs, immorality, disrespect of authority, and lack of discipline in many American schools. These schools teach, as fact, theory of evolution. They are NOT ALLOWED to teach Biblical creation. Increasingly, they set forth family life models which are contrary to God’s one man/one woman marriage. **In contrast, at SCS** we openly proclaim that **Jesus Christ and His Word** are foundational keys to education. Education in which Jesus Christ is central is the best preparation for the real world. Therefore, **SCS offers** a sound, proven academic education which is integrated with the Word of God.

At Southside Christian School, academic excellence is reality. **Students must score 80%** or above to pass any and all subjects— **90% in lower levels**. No one is socially promoted. The classroom requires hard work, responsibility, and discipline. The atmosphere is one of genuine love. Christian training and memorization of Scripture are built into the curriculum.

At Southside Christian School a student can move ahead or go slower— whichever is the best rate for each individual student. **At SCS, the student is not** locked into a class schedule that goes forward regardless of the readiness of the student! **The faster student** does not have to wait on the readiness of others. **At SCS** students

experience social interaction through chapel, speech classes, field trips, Physical Education, and competition at the Regional and International Student Convention.

The *Presenting Accelerated Christian Education* video will give a comprehensive overview of the system of education which we utilize at Southside Christian School:

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

Yours for Christian Education! / Principal, Bradley Pennington / Administrator, James Bell
Southside Baptist Church and Christian School / 1028 South Water Avenue,
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066 / **Please call us at: 615-452-5951**