



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 41, No. 42, October 20 , 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."***

## **GOSPEL SATURATED/GOSPEL TRANSFORMED!**

**It is claimed that from 60 to 75 percent** of all visitors who walk in the doors of a church service in America are battling with various dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions. However, **NO MATTER** what terms or statistics we bring forth to describe *our mission field*— ***at the core it is not different from any other mission field anywhere else in the world now or in any era of time!*** For at the core, the root problem remains this: **Every person born into a fallen world is**

- (1) Dead** in sin;
- (2) Walks** according to the course of this world;
- (3) Walks** according to the dictates of satan who works in the lost;
- (4) Walks** in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;
- (5) AND by nature is under the wrath of God!** (Ephesians 2:1-3)

**Bad News:** From these 'roots' spring forth every kind of evil and bondage to sin and satan— **INCLUDING** various dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions. **GOOD NEWS: The Gospel** of God's amazing grace and only the gospel can set such captives free! (Ephesians 2:4-10)

**Example:** The people of Corinth were enslaved by what many would call dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions. Here is a sampling of the

**deep lifestyles of bondage from which** founding members of the Church at Corinth were delivered— simply by the gospel of Christ!

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived (misled):** neither [fornicators] the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.*

**And such some of you were [once]. But** you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), **and** you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), **and** you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.” (1 Cor. 6:9-11, Amplified Bible)

From the Church at Corinth and from many others, the GOSPEL has a proven record of being the power of God to TRANSFORM sinners, regardless of their bondage!

**QUESTION: In 2015, has the gospel of Jesus Christ lost its power?** OR is the real problem that we have often abandoned the true gospel and settled for a poor substitute?

**QUESTION:** What will happen IF WE **stop** grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit **and we start** welcoming and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

**ANSWER:** We will have testimonies and lifestyles like those of New Testament Christians!

### **I. We will embrace Paul’s confession of Romans 1:14-16:**

*“**I am debtor** both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, **I am ready to preach the gospel** to you that are at Rome also. For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

**II. When the gospel of God’s amazing, saving grace invades a life — THERE ARE NORMAL Acts 2:36-47 experiences, realities, changes:**

**1. Acts 2:36-37— there will be CONVICTION** (Also see, John 16:8-11) and a growing realization that it was not merely the Jews or the Romans who crucified Christ— **“No, O God, it was I!”**

**2. Acts 2: 38-41— there will be REPENTANCE and FAITH** brought on by a supernatural work of the calling of God. (Paul summed up his gospel preaching: Acts 20:19-21— *“repentance toward God and faith toward our LORD JESUS CHRIST!”*) This ‘repentance and faith’ is expressed in **a glad receiving** of the convicting Word of God **and a public identification** with Christ in ‘death/burial/resurrection’ in the waters of baptism.

**3. Acts 2:42-47— there will be LIFESTYLE TRANSFORMATION by the gospel!** Because the Holy Spirit now INDWELLS the newborn redeemed, many NEW THINGS become STANDARD for all those who are truly saved! **2 Corinthians 5:17—** *Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! (Amplified)*

**Notice the FRUIT from being New Creations in Christ Jesus—** all with no begging, bribing, or appeals to the flesh. Just the miracle overflow of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST! **Acts 2:42-47:**

- a. Continual devotion to** the study of the Word of God.
- b. Learning the doctrines** of the Word of God and having fellowship with other believers.
- c. Partaking of** the LORD’S SUPPER.
- d. Prayer with** other believers.
- e. Reverential fear** of God.
- f. Sharing possessions with** one another so that no one is left ‘out in the cold.’
- g. Sharing meals with** other saints in Christ with gladness and joy.
- h. Praising** God.
- i. Having respect from neighbors** who are, doubtless, impressed by the new supernatural lifestyle of the believers.
- j. Into such an environment, God adds more believers!**

**REALITY:** To the extent that true saints in Christ are not experiencing/living **Acts 2:36-47 Christianity**— we are grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit.

**Therefore,** let us be broken and repent. Let the redeemed follow in the steps of the new born redeemed of Acts 2:36-47!

**4. When the gospel of God’s amazing, saving grace invades a life, (Galatians 2:20; 5:18-23; 6:14), there will be CRUCIFIXION! (Romans 6:14-23; Rom. 8:7-16)**

**THEREFORE:** When a non-Christian or a Believer sees us out in daily life and/or walks into our Sunday School Classes or a Sunday Worship Service — **They will witness people** who are crucified to sin and self and a people who are risen in Christ, living free from the ruling power of sin, self, satan, and/or society; and led in accordance with Galatians 2:20; 5:18-23; 6:14; Romans 6:14-23; and Rom. 8:7-16.

**THEY WILL WITNESS a people who** have and manifest love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

**They will witness a people** of holiness, love and forgiveness! These are all divine realities, divine grace transformations GIVEN to every born again Christian and INDWELLING every born again Christian!

**EVEN SO, WHAT GOD HAS PUT IN US, WE MUST WORK OUT!** (*Phil. 2:12-13*) AND: To the extent that our world IS NOT witnessing the above NORMAL Christianity— we must humble ourselves and repent!

### **III. OPENLY, PUBLICALLY TESTIFYING OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR OUR SOUL!**

**1.** Psalm 22:22, 25— I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation:** I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

**2. Psalm 35:18—** I will give thee thanks **in the great congregation:** I will praise thee among much people.

**3. Ps. 66:16**— Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And ***I will declare what He has done for my soul.***

**4. Psalm 107**— Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,** Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy...

**IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES, CONSIDER THE POWERFUL IMPACT THE FOLLOWING PRACTICE WILL MAKE!**

**1.** Before Sunday School, between Sunday School and the Worship hour, after the worship hour and during lunch— **While we may chat a little about the weather, work or ‘the game’... the highlight of our conversation is , “This week... or today... or from Daily Bible reading, or from the Sunday School lesson or from the preached Word of God, etc!”...**

“God spoke to me today... **convicting...** God spoke to me today... **encouraging...** God spoke to me today... **instructing...** God spoke to me today... **rebuking/correcting...**” “GOD SPOKE TO ME TODAY and brought me **from death to life...**”

**2.** In other words, when we READ/STUDY the Word of God and/or when we participate in a group Bible Study and/or when we sit under the sound of the preaching of the Word of God we must be asking ourselves questions like—

Is there a sin to confess? Are there promises to claim? Are there commands of God to obey? Are there examples to follow? Is there error to avoid? Is there truth to believe? Is there PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to give to God?

**3.** And then, we TESTIFY in the midst of the Congregation: Psalm 35:18— I will give thee thanks **in the great congregation:** I will praise thee among much people. **Ps. 66:16**— Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, and ***I will declare what He has done for my soul.***

**THINK OF THE GODLY, GOSPEL IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION!**

**UNLESS WE ARE CONTENT TO JUST 'PLAY CHURCH', THIS SHOULD BE... WILL BE AN EXCITING, EVERY SUNDAY EVENT!**

**IV. WHEN A VISITOR WALKS INTO ONE OF OUR S.S. CLASSES AND/OR WORSHIP SERVICES... OR INTO OUR HOMES** They should witness A CONGREGATION OF MINISTERS, SERVANTS OF CHRIST WHO ARE ALL SIGNIFICANTLY INVOLVED, 'ADDICTED' TO TRUE CHURCH WORK! (1 Cor. 12:7- 13:8)

**Practically, what does this 'Church work' look like?** You may never sing in the Choir, preach a sermon, teach a S.S. lesson or be set before the congregation as a deacon.

**But every Christian is equipped by the Holy Spirit and commissioned to actively carry out the following ministry:**

1. "...Be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50) 2. "...Wash **one** another's feet" (John 13:14) 3. "...Love **one** another..." (John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17) 4. "Love **one** another"(Romans 13:8) 5. "Be devoted to **one** another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10) 6. "Honor **one** another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10) 7. "Live in harmony with **one** another..." (Romans 12:16) 8. "...Stop passing judgment on **one** another" (Romans 14:13) 9. "Accept **one** another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)

10. "...instruct **one** another" (Romans 15:4) 11. "Greet **one** another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26) 12. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other" (I Corinthians 11:33) 13. "...Have equal concern for each other" (I Corinthians 12:25)

14. "...Serve **one** another in love" (II Corinthians 13:12) 15. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2) 16. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other" (Galatians 5:15) 17. "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other" (Galatians 5:26) 18. "...Be patient, bearing with **one** another in love" (Ephesians 4:2) 19. "Be kind and compassionate to **one** another..." (Ephesians 4:32)

20. "...forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32) 21. "Speak to **one** another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19) 22. "Submit to **one** another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21)

23. "...in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3) 24. "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9) 25. "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13) 26. "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against **one** another" (Colossians 3:13)

27. "Teach...[**one** another]" (Colossians 3:16) 28. "...admonish **one** another" (Colossians 3:16) 29. "...make your love increase and overflow for each other" (I Thessalonians 3:12) 30. "Encourage **one** another" (I Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 10:25) 31. "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11) 32. "Encourage **one** another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13) 33. "Spur **one** another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)

34. "...Do not slander **one** another" (James 4:11) 35. "Don't grumble against each other" (James 5:9) 36. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16) 37. "...Pray for each other" (James 5:16) 38. "...Love **one** another deeply, from the heart" (I Peter 1:22, 4:8) 39. "...Live in harmony with **one** another..." (I Peter 3:8) 40. "Greet **one** another with a kiss of love" (I Peter 5:14)

41. "Offer hospitality to **one** another without grumbling" (I Peter 4:9) 42. "Each **one** should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10) 43. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward **one** another..." (I Peter 5:15) 44. "Love **one** another" (I John 3:11, 23; 4:7,11,12; II John 5)

**The above '44 commands' are God's assignment for all saints in Christ.** And Jesus is saying: *"If a man [woman, youth, child] love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."* (John 14:23-24)

**WE HAVE SEEN THIS AMAZING LIST MANY TIMES. GOD IS CALLING US TO A NEW AND FRESH OBEDIENCE... as an expression of loving Him because He first loved us!**

Grace to one and all! James Bell [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS: Jail Ministry**— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**WEDNESDAYS:** ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities;

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(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, OCTOBER 22, 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, OCTOBER 25:**

**9:30am, Sunday School**

**10:45am, Worship Service**

**NOON 'Covered-Dish' meal and church-wide WELCOME HOME and fellowship time with our missionary family, Odell, Beth, Josh, Titus, Caleb, and Wyatt Summers.**

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

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



## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER:

**Sundays, November 1, 8, 22, 29:** 9:30am- Sunday School // 10:45am-  
Worship // Noon Covered Dish Meal // 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service

**Sunday, November 15-** 9:30am- Sunday School // 10:45am-  
Worship/LORD'S SUPPER. (No meal, no early afternoon service) EVENING  
HOME GROUPS

