



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 27, July 12 , 2016 / 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."***

COMING TO JESUS with Hope, Repentance, Trust, Love, and Surrender!

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin [lives in, practices sin] is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

So, how do we become free? Remember the time Jesus had dinner in the house of Simon the Pharisee? At this dinner, of course, were more than just Simon and Jesus— there were all kinds of Pharisee friends. And all these men who are sitting at table with Jesus and Simon are good substantial, upstanding men. They would have known their Old Testaments! They were 'living right'... at least on the surface. **And yet every single one of these men- except Jesus— is in bondage; they are in some kind of prison.**

They are having dinner with the one person in all the world who is able to set them free; **but they're so blinded by the leaven of the Pharisees** that they can neither see Jesus for who He is nor their own condition for what it is!

They go on having their meal and looking at each other with critical judging eyes and looking at Jesus this way.

And while they're doing this, in comes this woman everybody knows to be a sinner, and she goes straight to Jesus and gets down to business. She begins to wash the feet of Jesus with her tears, wipes them with her hair and starts to kiss those feet. Then she takes this alabaster jar of ointment and pours it on his feet.

**And, a little later, when she walks out of that house she is free!
However, the religious ones remain in bondage!**

“One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

*Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, **"If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."***

And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both.

Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, **"Do you see this woman?** I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in

she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:36-50)

HOW DID SHE BECOME FREE WHILE OTHERS REMAINED IN PRISON?

Answer: She came to Jesus with **hope; repentance; trust; love;** and with **surrender:**

1. HOPE ... who knows how many times this woman had made up her mind, "My life is going to change. I'm not going to be like this anymore. I'm not going to do 'tricks' anymore for a living. I'm going to change my ways... leave prostitution, etc." ... but it never works out. She always slips right back into the old rut. **But this time she FIXED HER HOPE ON JESUS and she comes to him, looking to him to do what she could not do herself.** Kneeling at his feet she begins to wet them with her tears.

2. REPENTANCE . . . And her tears are not tears of self-pity but tears of repentance. **Her mind would have been racing with thoughts like these,** "I'm so sorry for this life I've lived. Sorry before you for what I've done to you. How I've let you down. ***Against you only have I sinned and done this evil in your sight, Oh God.***" She weeps over what she's done.

3. TRUST . . . Now, she takes her hair and begins to wipe the feet of JESUS with her hair. **And as** she wipes the feet of Jesus with her hair she's wrapping her heart around him in **trust** ... this is a sign of trust. Behind this sign there could have been **thoughts like these:**

"These feet are going to take my sins through the dusty streets of Jerusalem to Calvary. These feet are going to receive the nails and from them will come the blood that will wash away my sin. These feet are going to go down into the grave for me."... **But regardless of the details of her thoughts, she trusts in JESUS as the only one who can set her free!**

4. LOVE . . . And now this woman with this terrible reputation begins to kiss his feet, and he lets her do it. Everybody's watching ... people are criticizing ... she goes right on kissing and kissing and kissing the feet of JESUS **as an expression of love.**

Oh, how she loves him! She's 'made love' many times, but **this is love she has never experienced before** and she just keeps on loving him and loving him. [How tragic— multitudes are still 'making love'... or 'having sex' in their search for love; but they have never experienced the love of JESUS.]

5. SURRENDER . . . Now she reaches back, takes an alabaster flask of ointment worth piles of money ... that's one thing she has, **money— money and what money can buy** were likely her treasures. But now JESUS IS her treasure. So she takes this expensive ointment and pours it on the feet of JESUS **as a surrender**. Everything she has ... her body, her mind, her spirit, and her material possessions are all surrendered to Jesus.

At last JESUS speaks to her, "***Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.***" And she walks out of that house free from her chains ... a free woman ... never again to be bound like she was before.

NOW, IT IS THE CALLING OF EVERY CHRISTIAN TO BE ONE IN WHOM AND THROUGH WHOM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL SET FREE THE CAPTIVES WHO ARE IN OUR WORLD! However, in order for us to be channels for setting free the captives— we have to change our position.

All too often we ‘Christians’ have been ‘sitting at the table with’ Simon the Pharisee. And we've been blinded by the leaven of the Pharisees. We look at Jesus and we still don't see. We see and see and fail to perceive. We hear and hear and fail to understand. **We know all about Jesus. We claim to listen to him.**

Moreover, we feel free to pass judgment on each other and on the ‘bad sinners’ of our world— **but we don’t want to deal with the problem that WE ARE IN PRISON. If we truly want to be free, we have to leave our place at the table** ... lay aside our fancy robe of pride or whatever it is and walk in the steps of this woman who loved much!

1. HOPE . . . So now we bring our hope. We know how many times we've determined that we're going to make a change ... not be like that anymore. We're going to break that chain ... it never happens. **But now we bring our besetting sins to Jesus and we begin to hope in Jesus.** "Lord, I need your mercy and your grace. You alone are able to set me free!"

2. REPENTANCE . . . And we begin to weep. And now it's not tears of self-pity but **tears of repentance.** "Oh Lord, I'm so sorry for what I've done to you... how I've offended against your love... how I've failed you. I'm so sorry, will you forgive me?"

3. TRUST . . . Now we begin to wipe His feet with our hair. **That is,** we behold JESUS the LAMB OF GOD whose body was broken for our sin... these are the feet that took our sins to Calvary. These are the feet that take our guilt down into the grave; **and so we put our trust IN JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD AND ONLY IN HIM!**

4. LOVE . . . We begin to ‘kiss’ His feet! **That is,** when we behold the LAMB OF GOD AT CALVARY and when we appreciate **who this is and what He's done**— we begin to love Him. We are no longer ashamed to express that love to Him, no matter who's looking, or how many Pharisees may be passing judgment. That's their problem; we love Him ... we ‘kiss the feet’ of the Lamb of God. **We are no longer ashamed TO CONFESS HIM before men!**

5. SURRENDER . . . And now we reach back and take ‘the alabaster jar of ointment’ ... our possessions, our wealth, our pride, our positions, etc ... and pour it on those feet.

"These were my treasures before, Lord. But now you're my treasure. I surrender them all to you." And as we do this and do it with our hearts, He says to us, **"Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."**

[Note: Hope, Repentance, Trust, Love and Surrender mark THE ENTRANCE, the BEGINNING of the Christian life... and they also mark any and all continuing progress in the Christian life! "As you have received the LORD JESUS CHRIST, so WALK IN HIM", the Scriptures tell us.]

AS WE walk in Hope, Repentance, Trust, Love and Surrender— the Holy Spirit stirs among us and more and more people find their way to us with needs and cries for help and we're desperate for the power to give them the help they need.

If we're ever going to have that help to give our needy world, we're going to have to ‘leave the table’ of pride and get down and wash Jesus' feet. We're going to have to bring Him, - our hope, - our repentance, - our trust, - our love, - our surrender. **And the time to begin to do that is right now.**

(This article is edited from R.E. Bieber, an 80+ year old servant of the LORD)

QUESTIONS/ISSUES THIS ARTICLE MAY HAVE RAISED

1. The Pharisees were all obviously ‘lost’... The author is not saying that all of his ‘Christian’ readers are lost. But neither does he assume that all are saved.

We are all left with the need to each listen to the Holy Spirit for the correct application: A revelation of being religious but lost... OR... a revelation of being a genuine disciple of Jesus... with areas of bondage grieving/quenching the Holy Spirit.

2. True disciples of Jesus will experience just what Jesus did: His life and message was LIFE to some and DEATH to others. But a huge application of the article is that true disciples of Jesus must make sure that we are not the hindrance... that we ourselves are FREE!

3. Again, the path into LIFE IN CHRIST and the path into real REVIVAL of life in Christ follow in the same path: We must come to Jesus with hope. - with repentance. - with trust. - with love. - with surrender.

4. Every person reading this article **and heeding** the ministry of the Holy Spirit will experience NEW LIFE IN CHRIST **or** REVIVAL of the life of Christ in their life! So be it!

Grace and Peace to all in Christ! James Bell

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 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— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **The Epistle of James, chapter 5 // NEXT: July 19 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: 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, July 17:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / NO Children's Church

LORD'S SUPPER // NO noon meal or afternoon service

EVENING HOME GROUPS: Call for locations

SUNDAY SERVICES, July 24:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch // **1pm Service,**

5:30 - 7:30pm- Faithful Men!

SUNDAY SERVICES, July 31:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch

6:00pm- Sunday EVENING— Sharing Scriptures, Songs, PRAISE!
(An EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE UNTO THE LORD!)

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

For the 2016-2017 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>