



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 8, February 21 , 2017 / 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; and 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."***

WE GATHER to WORSHIP the TRUE and LIVING GOD! (Part 2)

At a Christian 'worship service' **God is the focus, not man**. We gather as a church family **to ASCRIBE** worth to God. We gather **to PROSTRATE** ourselves before God **in submission to** the truth of His Word. We gather **to offer UNTO HIM** honor, praise, adoration and thanksgiving— REMEMBERING the redeeming love of God which births, sustains, and builds up worship!

We gather **to RECOGNIZE and REJOICE in** God's glory, greatness, power, victory, majesty, and rule. We gather **to offer unto God** willing heart offerings and our own selves! We then **SCATTER** out into the world to **live and proclaim** the GOSPEL— this too is a part of our life of worshipping/serving the true and living God! MOREOVER, **worship is void of overflowing obedience to God it is but a vain, empty show!** (Mark 7:1-13) WE NEED,

I. Biblical Guidance to encourage God-centered Worship

Exodus 20:1-3— the exclusive object of our worship must be the one, the true and the living, triune God himself. In the worship of God, no room is allowed in the Bible for idols, icons, saints, angels, Mary, (the earthly

Mother of Jesus), nor any object, nor any other being in the entire universe.

Exodus 20:4-6— the manner of true worship must be spiritual and not physical. **Thus, we are forbidden** by God in His Holy Word to attempt to worship God by means of visual representations. **All attempts to visually portray GOD the Father, Son or Holy Spirit obscure God's glory.** (Deut. 4:15-16; Isaiah 40:18; 46:5-10; Rom. 1:22-23)

Instead of man- made images and/or 'paintings' supposedly portraying true DEITY, God reveals Himself **through the Word of God and by His Spirit** (Ps. 16:7-9; 2 Cor. 3:18; Isa. 53; Revelation 1:13-17); and declares Himself through creation! (Ps. 19:1-6)

Exodus 20:7— the specific attitude for true worship is that of **reverence** for God and, thus, **reverence** for God's Name. The third commandment not only means that we do not CURSE; but also that we refrain from using God's name in our jokes or humor or in any cheap or insincere fashion.

Moreover, as a Christian we are 'taking the name' of Jesus— His name is not to be taken in vain. His name is not to be taken in a mere empty show of religion— to be singing 'Praise the LORD' while secretly proceeding to love sin is to greatly misuse the holy name of Jesus.

Exodus 20:8-11— certainly all of our time is to be used in such a way as to glorify God. Nevertheless, the principles of Scripture call for the specific setting aside of one day in seven for rest, good deeds and for corporate worship. **(Isaiah 58:13-14) Living, vibrant love relationships require and are inwardly motivated to give sacred, specific time!**

II. Jesus Unfolds the Nature of New Covenant Worship

Christian Worship is not a matter of a sacred, physical locality. Rather, it is the spiritual reality of communion with God that is of supreme importance.

In other words,

1. True Worship must be in spirit! (John 4:19-21)

WORSHIP is not outward ceremony or fleshly incited emotions from high energy music and/or gyrations and/or rituals. Rather, **worship in spirit** relates to being in accord with the Holy Spirit, aided by the Holy Spirit and is a manifestation of sincerity in hearts which are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **HE** is the **HOLY** Spirit and **He** is the Spirit of **TRUTH** and **His** master passion is to **Exalt Jesus!** (Matthew 15:18; John 14:17; John 15:26; John 16:13)

THEREFORE: Worship that is "in the Spirit" will manifest and promote

(1) Holiness,

(2) Loyalty to Biblical Truth, and

(3) Will exalt Jesus!

Exuberance, various physical expressions, may or may not be the expressions of being "in the Spirit"— **they may only be a pumped up man-manufactured display of religious flesh that makes God sick, as revealed in Isaiah 1:2-15.**

2. True Worship must be in truth!

Worship in truth is worship which is in agreement with God's Word. (John 17:17) True worship has God and God alone as the object of the worship being offered. (Ex. 20:3) **Moreover, worship 'in truth' yields forth obedience to God!** (Isa. 1:15-20)

In the true worship of God we receive and heed: **"Preach the Word; ... reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.** (2 Timothy 4:1-4)

SADLY, in our day there is a growing rejection as to preaching the **"Thus saith the LORD!"**

Instead, many are seeking to 'grow churches' by means of foolish stories, by man-made fictions, by promoting temporal patriotism and/or by an

abundance of fun! (2 Timothy 4:1-4) Give the masses what they want and they love it! (Jeremiah 5:30-31) In many places folks are led to believe that they can continue to love the world and keep their sin and have the Savior also!

In reality, that IS how the Harlot Church is built! However, those who know and follow the LAMB, (like Noah), must live and preach RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5)

HOWEVER, FOR US, the real question is not to critique what world-pleasing religion may be doing— the real question is **HOW ARE WE DOING** as to the point in “II”???

III. Various Biblical Expressions in the Corporate Worship of God!

1. PREACH/TEACH! The preaching/teaching of the Word of God is critical and central in corporate worship. “To worship God we must know who God is, but we cannot know who God is unless God first chooses to reveal Himself to us. God has done this in the Bible, which is why the Bible and the teaching of the Bible need to be central in our worship.” (J. M. Boice)

2. SAY, “AMEN!” In the worship of God it is a good thing for the whole congregation (in response to the preached/taught Word of God) to freely and expressively speak forth words of Praise to God; and to openly say, **“AMEN!”**

Saying ‘AMEN’ is saying “Yes!” to God! “So be it LORD!”

Nehemiah 8:6— “And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered,

AMEN, AMEN...”

1 Chronicles 16:8-36— A great, God-centered Psalm was read before the people...

“And all the people said, AMEN, and praised the LORD!”

Psalm 106:48— "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let **all the people** say,

AMEN, PRAISE YE THE LORD!"

Revelation 7:9-12— All those in heaven are worshipping God and saying, "**AMEN!** Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, BE UNTO OUR GOD forever and ever. "**AMEN! AMEN! ALLELUIA!"**

3. SING/SAY PRAISES! In the worship of God **it is a good thing for the congregation to freely and expressively SING and/or SPEAK praise unto the LORD!**

Psalm 95:1— "O come, let US sing unto the LORD. **Let US make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."**

Ephesians 5:19— "Speaking to YOURSELVES** in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the LORD!"** (Col. 3:16; Matt.26:30)

4. TESTIFY! It is a good thing to give **TESTIMONIES** in the midst of the congregation! Here are just a few **Biblical examples:** Psalm 22:22-25; 35:18; 66:13-16; 107:1-2; 107:31-32.

5. STAND! KNEEL! BOW! In the worship of God **it is a good thing for a congregation to stand, to kneel, to bow, etc.** In the Word of God, we find various physical postures in worship conveying gratitude, reverence, submission, humility, and/or dependence, etc.

Yes, mere physical actions can become mechanical and/or hypocritical; and, thus, sickening to God— Isaiah 1:2-15. Yes, we must come to God in worship with right heart attitudes.

But also, **among those right attitudes is the submissive, godly embracing of Biblical expressions in worship**, such as the ones we are setting forth from Scripture in this lesson.

MOREOVER, **the fact that there are** those who "get in the flesh" and just put on a show, rather than truly worship God—

NONE OF THESE NEGATIVE REALITIES GIVE US LIBERTY TO IGNORE OR REJECT STANDARD BIBLICAL PATTERNS!

6. LIFT UP HOLY HANDS! In the worship of God it is a good thing for our hearts and hands to blend in worship to God.

"Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, **as I lift MY HANDS** toward your most holy place." (Psalm 28:2)

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; **My HEART** trusteth in Him, and I am helped. MY HEART leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song." (Psalm 28:7)

EXTENDED HANDS reveal the worshipper in a posture of faith, looking to God for mercy and grace. (Psalm 88:9b)

LIFTED UP HANDS are also in the context of praise to God for his greatness. "Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD..."

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD!" (Psalm 134:1-2)

"And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

And all the people answered, **AMEN, AMEN, with lifting up their hands**, and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground." (Neh. 8:6)

God inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "I will therefore that men PRAY everywhere, **LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS**, without wrath and doubting." (1 Timothy 2:8)

AGAIN... the fact that there may be many who in a spirit of carnality are LIFTING UP their hands in worship—

DOES NOT GIVE US Biblical warrant to neglect or reject obedience to the clear Word of God. The excuse, “It is just not my personality to be publically expressive in worship!”.... SUCH EXCUSES leave us in disobedience to the clear Word of God.

IV. Bottom Line, as to Genuine Worship!

“The loss of God’s centrality in the life of today’s church is common and tragic. It is the loss that brings us, sadly,

- (1) To transform worship into entertainment,
- (2) Gospel preaching into marketing,
- (3) Being and becoming Christ-like into feeling good about ourselves, and
- (4) Faithfulness into being successful...

THE GREAT NEED OF THE HOUR:

We must focus on God in our worship, rather than the satisfaction of our personal needs. God is sovereign in worship; we are not.

Our concern must be for God’s kingdom, not our own preferences, popularity, or success.”

A REVIVAL OF GENUINE WORSHIP in our Southside church gatherings must be... will be deeply rooted in

Scripture alone (**sola Scriptura**), Grace alone (**sola gratia**),

Christ alone (**solus Christus**), Faith alone (**sola fide**), and

Glory to God alone (**solus Deo Gloria**).

BELOVED! LET US GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD!

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— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, February 28, 2017 @ 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! {STUDYING the Epistle of First John} AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

Sunday Services: ** February 26:

9:30am - Sunday School // **10:45am** - Worship Service
Noon Covered Dish meal / NO afternoon service

☐ **5:30PM - 7:30PM FAITHFUL MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING:** Continuing in the 16 TESTS of an AUTHENTIC New Testament Church... be prepared for Concept 7 & 8

NOTICE: We WILL NOT be having Summer Camp at Westmoreland this year.