



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No. 50, December 12, 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."***

**NEXT Grow in Grace Newsletter, scheduled for 1/2/18**

## **GOD, the GREATEST Gift Giver!**

**ALMIGHTY GOD is the ONE ABOVE-ALL-OTHERS, MASTER TEACHER and EXAMPLE OF GIVING—** ***"God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son...!"*** (John 3:16) **JESUS, THE GIFT** that God the Father gave was laid in an animal's stall and later nailed to a rugged cross. **JESUS, GOD'S GIFT—** in order to become the sinner's Saviour, had to FIRST become the sinner's SIN BEARER and SUBSTITUTE!

We do not begin to understand the pain of experiencing the WRATH which was laid on JESUS on our behalf; NOR the pain of God the Father in placing on His Beloved Son the wrath which we deserve. AND LET US NOT FORGET— NO ONE took Jesus' life; HE WILLINGLY laid it down!

**Oh, teach me what it meaneth--** That cross uplifted high, With One- the Man of Sorrows- Condemned to bleed and die! **Oh, teach**

**me what it cost Thee** to make a sinner whole; And teach me, Saviour, teach me The Value of a soul! **Oh, teach me what it meaneth**-- That sacred crimson tide-- The blood and water flowing From Thine own wounded side. **Teach me that if** none other had sinned, but I alone, Yet still, Thy blood, LORD Jesus, Thine alone must atone. **Oh, teach me what it meaneth**-- For I am full of sin; and Grace alone can reach me, and Love alone can win. **Oh, teach me**, for I need Thee-- I have no hope beside, *(For I am) The chief of all the sinners for whom the Saviour died!*

**Because Thy love constraineth, I'll (Love, Serve), praise Thee evermore!** (by Lucy A. Bennett, slightly edited)

**NOTICE:** The hymn leads us to focus on the depth of our own personal need because of our own sin; and upon the glorious wonder of CHRIST ALONE who can meet our need.

**REALITY: Only those** who have been BROKEN by Holy Spirit conviction of **their own sin**; and **only those who** have seen and EXPERIENCED the amazing grace of GOD'S forgiveness of their own sin— **ONLY THESE WILL FORGIVE OTHERS and escape** the TORTURE of **not forgiving!** (Matt. 19:23-35)

**LET US JOIN IN with the New Testament Christians— THEY KEPT ON REJOICING IN JESUS, THE GRAND GIFT FROM THE FATHER!**

Their continuing celebration of the Birth of Christ was not a self-focused or divided-loyalty HOLIDAY. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS model a continuing lifestyle of PRAISE and GRATITUDE! **Let us JOIN IN with them:**

**1.** *“And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14) **2.** *“...Jesus Christ: Who being in the form of God,...took upon Him the form of a*

servant, and was made in the likeness of men...he humbled Himself ...unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:1-11)

**3. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH....."** (1 Tim. 3:16)

**4. 2 Corinthians 9:15—** "Thanks be to God for His **indescribable** gift! ... His gift **too wonderful** for words! ... His **inexpressible** gift! ... His **unspeakable** gift! ... His gift that **words cannot describe....** Thanks be to God for His **unspeakably precious gift!**"

**TO HONOR JESUS, 'gifts' NOT to give and 'gifts' TO GIVE:**

**1. I MUST NOT GIVE... the WORKS OF THE FLESH!** "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (Galatians 5:19-21)

**NOTE: IF we continue to 'do'/'GIVE' such acts as** sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; **hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions,** factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like — we are showing cause to question the genuineness of our claim of being saved! **\*\*\* To 'do'... to 'GIVE' these attitudes and actions to others is NEVER justified in God's sight. These are Anti-Christ gifts!**

**Beware of 'giving' these additional ANTICHRIST GIFTS:** "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from

above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work. **Are WE givers of such anti-Christ 'wisdom' gifts?**

## **2. IN GLORIOUS CONTRAST, 'CHRIST GIFTS'... CHRISTIAN GIVING LOOKS LIKE THIS!**

**[CHRIST GIFTS!]... to give to others:** "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. **And they that are Christ's** have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:19-22)

**'CHRIST GIFTS' ARE WRAPPED UP IN WISDOM and 'look like' this:** **But the wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." (James 3:14-18)

**UNLESS the following 'CHRIST GIFTS' are being given by us to others— we are ZEROS in God's sight! (1 Corinthians 13:1-7) Grand reality:** The Christian's heart has been FLOODED (Romans 5:5) with the LOVE OF GOD! By grace and not by DESERVING, we have been GIVEN His love. **NOW, we are to GRACIOUSLY GIVE** His love to others... to the unloving, the undeserving, to the unresponsive:

**LOVE** suffereth long, [and] is kind; **LOVE** envieth not; **LOVE** vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, **seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the

truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **LOVE** never faileth..." (1 Cor.13:1-8a)

### **BOTTOM LINES ABOUT OUR GIVING:**

**1. Our thoughts, words and deeds are either of CHRIST or they are ANTICHRIST! 2. Will there be those who read** the words of this article who will sink down into ANTICHRIST responses and if so, how so? **Namely this:** You read and you start thinking of and ACCUSING someone else (A SPOUSE, A NEIGHBOR, CHURCH MEMBER, A CO-WORKER) of being eat up with words and actions in the ANTICHRIST LIST— **RATHER THAN** allowing the Word of God by the Spirit of God call you to personal repentance for your own failures!

**REALITY:** God does not call upon us to CONFESS the real or imagined sins/failings of others. HE CALLS UPON US TO CONFESS and REPENT of our own sins/failings; and to LOVE folks in our world with the same love with which Jesus has loved us— **ESPECIALLY, as Romans 12:14-21.**

**3. From time to time,** even growing Christians BOG DOWN into being **MIND-PIECES AND MOUTH-PIECES** for ANTICHRIST words! Let us one and all take heed lest we fall! Let us STAY CLOSE TO JESUS and in His Word, **so as to keep FROM** thinking, speaking, 'giving' ANTICHRIST 'gifts'.

**GOD'S INSTRUCTION AS TO 'GIVING':** "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **And grieve not** the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **Let all** bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, **be put away** from you,

with all malice: **And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**" (Ephesians 4:29-32)

**REMEMBER, GOD THE FATHER has GIVEN us His Son; JESUS. His Son, is OUR GIFT-GIVING MODEL: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself,** and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:3-8)

LET US REMEMBER: THIS same Jesus who now INDWELLS the Christian by the Holy Spirit), SHOUTS TO EVERY CHRISTIAN an irrefutable conclusion: ***"I never have the right to harbor or to GIVE forth any spirit, attitude, words, or actions which are contrary to the 'GIVING' of Jesus!"***

**O what a battle this is because when difficult circumstances and people cross my path— I don't 'naturally' want to GIVE forth HUMILITY as Jesus did.** I want to pay back, hit back, get even, etc... and then as I get beat up in the battles of 'flesh against flesh'— not only do I not want to MODEL the giving of Jesus, **I don't want anyone calling upon me to deal with my faults. I want sympathy.** I want support with justification and approval for my FLESH GIVING!

**(Note: Of course, I would never be so overt as to literally say that I want those things!) In reality I need someone to come along side and remind me: "You are HIS blood-bought**

**holy temple; Jesus has a right to express His life and His spirit through His temple!”**

**SAD REALITY: There is no much heartache in Christian homes and churches** because of defensive/OFFENDED SPIRITS—antichrist ‘giving’ is deadly to all! WE EASILY GIVE FORTH **THESE DEADLY FUMES**: “So and so did so and so to me. They failed me. They wronged me. They made me angry, mad, FRUSTRATED, or upset. They hurt me— THEREFORE, I QUIT THE MARRIAGE, THE CHURCH, or THE FRIENDSHIP!”

**Thus, we sink down into the deep dark prison cells of our own making. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OUT— I MUST FORGIVE AND GIVE** like Jesus! AS I DO, JUST LIKE JESUS... WE WILL NOT BE LEFT DEPLETED, WORN OUT, DESTROYED, BEAT DOWN, ANGRY, BITTER, RESENTFUL... BUT JUST LIKE JESUS, who suffered far more injustice than we— **WE WILL BE ANNOINTED WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE OTHERS!**

May the Grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST be with you 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.

**WEDNESDAYS:** ☐ **6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;** ☐ 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(Enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE... (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym) ... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room**

**\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY— the Gospel of Luke, 12! ... Cindy Bell, teaching. RESUMES on Tuesday, JANUARY 2, 2018.**

**\*\*\* MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (DECEMBER Study — 24 Biblical Reasons Why JESUS Came!) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning, NEW LOCATION: Once inside, go LEFT, WALK UP HALLWAY TO DICKEY RICHARD'S Sunday School Room! FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

**\*\*\* December 17— 9:30am - Sunday School**

**10:45am - Worship Service / No MEAL**

**SPECIAL Note: on 12/17— IN PREPARATION for the LORD'S TABLE...**

The Word of God will be preached; \*\*The Choir and/or others... will lead us in Special PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to GOD THE FATHER, For HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT OF JESUS!

**\*\*\* December 24—**

**9:30am-** CHURCHWIDE BRUNCH in fellowship hall... bring 'breakfast-type' foods/snacks

**10:45am-** WORSHIP (During the Worship Hour, we will again COME TO the LORD'S TABLE— for when Jesus came to earth... HE WAS ON THE WAY to CALVARY!)

**\*\*\* December 31—**

**9:30am** Sunday School and

**10:45am** Worship [NO MEAL]

**\*\*\*\*\* WATCH, LISTEN to, SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

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