



Volume 45, No. 13, March 27, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / 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 Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

REMEMBERING the Death and RESURRECTION of JESUS CHRIST!

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION: **IF** there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **IF** Christ is not raised, there is not the slightest hope of our resurrection! **IF** Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is our faith. **IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED, THEN THE APOSTLES ARE LIARS!** (1 Cor.15:15-16) **IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED, THEN CHRISTIANS ARE YET IN THEIR SINS** (1 Cor. 15:17) **IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED,** we will experience no mercy, no love, no compassion, no forgiveness from God. **IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED,** when we stand before GOD, we will get everything that we deserve for every evil action, thought or motive we have done or had... **IF** Christ be not raised. **IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED, THEN DEAD CHRISTIANS HAVE PERISHED** (1 Cor. 15:18) **IF only** for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE RESURRECTION? The resurrection of Christ demonstrated historically that the sacrifice of Christ for sin was sufficient and satisfactory and accepted by God. ***THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST was God's, "Amen," To***

Christ's, "It is finished." Without question the Resurrection is exceedingly critical! (1 Cor. 15)

However, IF Jesus HAD FAILED to made sufficient propitiation— there would have been no resurrection.

IT MAY SURPRISE US, but Jesus DID NOT ask us to do anything special to remember His resurrection! JESUS DOES call us to remember Him and His sacrifice as we come to the LORD'S TABLE!

THE Holy Spirit DID NOT move Paul to write— God forbid that I should glory, save in the resurrection... BUT RATHER— PAUL TESTIFIES: GOD FORBID THAT I should glory, SAVE IN THE CROSS!! (Gal. 6:14)

REMINDER: 'Sola Scriptura'— "That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, and is to be interpreted, in its own light, and with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27)..." (A.A. Hodge)

REALITY ® **"NEITHER YOU NOR I have any authority to add to or subtract from the Word of God;** therefore we must be on a lifelong pilgrimage of studying the Word of God and heeding the Word of God! (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:13-17)

The Word of God reveals that when it comes to celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ— **New Testament Christians simply obeyed Jesus and celebrated the New Testament Passover or LORD'S SUPPER!** (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

The Word of God reveals that the LORD'S SUPPER has a singular FOCUS— *Christ's DEATH, with His resurrection and second coming clearly implied!* THE LORD'S SUPPER is profound beyond

words to describe! However, there is no POMP, no grand ceremonies— just the simplicity of a piece of bread and wine, or juice.

REALITY— New Testament Christians DID NOT remember or celebrate Christ by Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, **Service of Darkness, or Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday,** Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday! **THESE ARE ALL** manmade religious customs and traditions which have basically come to the 21st century through Catholicism. In fact, many of these beloved customs were borrowed from other religions and then *Christianized*. In varying degrees many Protestants have further adapted them. **None of these are in or from the Bible!**

Jonathan Edwards once stated: “It is the nature of false religion to be showy and visible, as it was with the Pharisees.”

INDEED, whenever the world wants to get their point across or promote their product, they spend mega-bucks. They put on a Big Show and DAZZLE the physical senses. More often than not, Christian Religion follows in that train as they seek to build impressive earthly kingdoms. Thus, at Christendom’s grand calendar moments of Christmas and Easter, she is on dazzling display IN UTTER DISREGARD of the New Testament.

NEVERTHELESS, JESUS STILL CALLS HIS CHURCH **to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words: “...This do In Remembrance of Me!”**

GLORIOUSLY, the LORD'S SUPPER is equally within the reach of the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, the famous and the forgotten. I PLEAD WITH ONE AND ALL: **LET US 'MAKE MUCH OF' THE LAMB OF GOD!**

WITHOUT any artificial enticements or inducements, **the pure Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit are ready to carry us** to the most ultimate heights of wonder and awe **as we come to the LORD'S TABLE!**

IN PREPARATION for the LORD'S SUPPER on April 1, 2018, please meditate on the following:

It Took Just One— Once (Hebrews 9:26) What Christ meant to do on the cross, He accomplished. He did not die in vain. He died with no part of His work left undone. JESUS did not die that sin's penalty and life dominating power might be vanquished by what He did PLUS some effort of our own! He died to vanquish sin Himself— once and forever. **One death. One sacrifice. One atonement. One cross.** *The whole gospel was hung on the cross. One price and purchase. One cross and crown. One death and deliverance. One, and only once. The Savior said victoriously, "It is finished!"*

I. One Person — "He!" Who was He? He was very God of very God. He was commissioned by the Father to vanquish sin (John 6:4). He was the Messiah, pledged by God's covenant to deliver His people (John 1:41). He was chosen (1 Pet. 1:20). God didn't send a mighty angel. He didn't send a mighty army. He didn't send a mighty man. He sent **His Son**— Himself.

II. One Period — "Appeared Once!" He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem; the infinite linked with the Infant. He who laid out the

heavens, now lay upon a woman's breast. He invaded time and history. He came as the God-Man. He was unique. No one was like Him in the past. No one was like Him in the present. No one would be like Him in the future. *He appeared once.*

He is **“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace”** (Isa. 9:6). He is King of kings. He chose not to stay on His throne. He came to earth for one brief period of time.

III. Grand Purpose — “To Do Away with Sin!” A. Sin and Its Presence: Sin is a reality for fallen man (Rom. 3:23). B. Sin and Its Price: Sin cannot be tolerated by a just and holy God, as sin is contrary to His perfect nature.

1. Separation and reconciliation. Sin, producing enmity between God and man, requires atonement for the restoration of man's relationship with God (Rom. 5:10).

2. Condemnation and satisfaction (Rom. 5:18; 6:23; 8:1). Sin's satisfaction is what we celebrate as we gather at His Table. As we partake of the elements, representing His body and blood given in atonement for our sin, let us receive with assurance the benefits of His grace. As believers we have been redeemed and restored in our never-ending relationship with the Prince of Peace.

IV. One Payment — “Once for All . . . the Sacrifice!” In the Old Testament, the sacrifice was a personal, spiritual encounter with God. Sacrifices were offered to satisfy God, who was present in judgment and mercy. A blood sacrifice was demanded. This had to be repeated time and again.

Jesus' perfect sacrifice accomplished “once for all” all God demanded as the payment for our sin. No longer would other

sacrifices be required. In Holy Communion, we remember all Christ has accomplished for us in His sacrificial death. (Edited from Jim Henry, *In Remembrance of Me.*)

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Whenever we come to the Lord's Supper, **we should remind ourselves of why we come and what we expect to find here.**

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord on the same night in which He was betrayed. It is to be observed in His church to the world's end, for a perpetual remembrance of Him and to show forth the sacrifice of Himself in His death. It was instituted also to encourage saints in the belief that all the benefits stemming from Christ's sacrifice belong to them.

In the supper the body and blood of Christ are present to the faith of believers, **not in any actual physical way**, but in a way of calling us to remember the once and for all sacrifice of our LORD at Calvary.

Our faith is called upon to focus upon the COMPLETE work of redemption—the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and HE IS COMING BACK!

In short: The Supper is a remembrance of Him. [Luke 22:19] The Supper is our communion with Him. [1 Cor. 10:16] The Supper is our fellowship with the body of Christ and especially the local body. [1 Cor. 11:18, 20] The Supper is a commemoration of His death. [1 Cor. 11:26]

WHY SHOULD I, as a CHRISTIAN, COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE?

Christ commands us to come! With this command He gives me this promise:

- As surely as I see with my eyes the bread broken and the cup given, so I know for certain that Christ became a real human being and poured out His blood on the cross.

- As surely as I take the bread and cup in my hand and taste them with my mouth, so I know for certain that Christ nourishes and refreshes my soul with His crucified body and blood. [Mt.26.26-28; 1 Cor. 11.23-25]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO EAT AND DRINK THE LORD'S SUPPER?

It means that I accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ for me. **It means that** by believing I am forgiven all my sins and now have eternal life. This is not magic. Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not wash away my sins. Only Christ can remove my sins, and that happens when by His grace I put my faith in Him.

WHAT BENEFITS THEN DO I RECEIVE BY COMING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?

My sins are exposed for what they really are before a Holy God. **My heart is inflamed** with love for Christ. **I am reminded** of all that He suffered for me. My faith in Christ is strengthened. My hope that one day I will live with Christ is made more certain.

Although His resurrection body is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and I am still here on earth, the Lord's Supper reinforces His promise that **He is coming back AND that** He will one day raise my mortal body and take me home to heaven to be with Him.

WHAT IF I KNOW THAT I'M NOT PERFECT?

I may come when I know myself to be a sinner and am displeased with myself because of my sin, yet come trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin.

I may come when I know myself to be weak and in need of Christ to strengthen my faith and when I desire Him to enable me to live a better life.

WHY DOES JESUS USE BREAD AND DRINK?

Jesus is teaching me that, just as bread and drink nourish my temporal life here, so His crucified body and poured-out blood truly nourish my spiritual life. Jesus uses this visible sign and pledge to assure me that all He has done for me in His perfect obedience, suffering, and death is certainly mine. I take the bread and the cup in my own hand and with my own mouth and am freshly assured **that what Jesus accomplished for sinners at Calvary is given to me personally.**

WHAT SHOULD I THINK AS THE ELEMENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED?

As I take the bread, I remember to thank God that Christ took up a human body; that He was tempted just as I am; that He was willing to suffer for me; that He lived a hard life in a poor family and that He was willing to be misunderstood.

As I take the cup, I remember to thank God that Jesus poured out His blood for me; that He saves me from the guilt of my sin; that He sets me free from the power of sin; that I now have the righteousness of Christ and that I will live and reign with Christ forever.

MORE RESOURCES FOR PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER: SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION: The Penitential Psalms: Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 // Isaiah 53, 55, 59 // Gospel of John 13-17 // Romans 3, 6, 8, 12 // **Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689), Chapter 30** [<http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/bcf/bcf-30.html>] *(Portions of the above article is edited from an article by Pastor John Olson)*

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE: PARENTS— Are your children saved, baptized believers? Spend time HELPING THEM to be prepared for SACRED WORSHIP at the LORD'S TABLE! Are they yet outside of Christ? MAKE SURE you help them to know that THE LORD'S TABLE is ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST! SHARE the gospel with them!

Great Grace to All! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS:

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

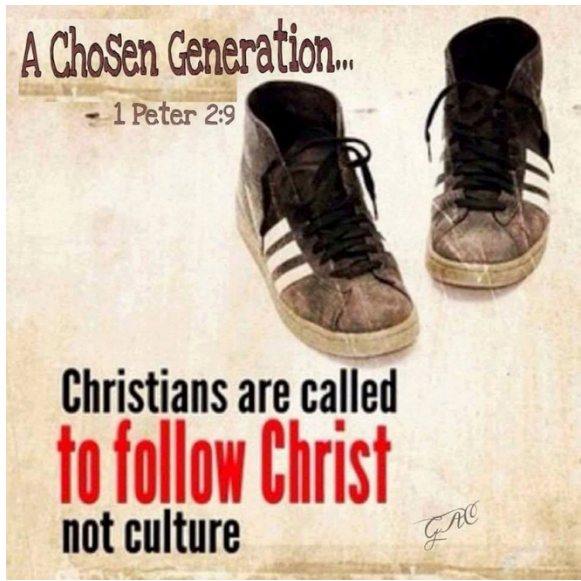
Ⓢ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE 13. ENTER**

at the back of the church building, through double doors, under the Drive Thru Awning. *[Doors **open** at 10:30am... The doors are **re-locked** at 11:10am]*

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (STUDY: THE EPISTLE OF JAMES!) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!



http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SUNDAY SERVICES: APRIL 1, 2018
RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

*** **9:30am**— Sunday School... regular classes

*** **10:45am**— Worship Service **and the LORD'S SUPPER!**

*** **NOON**— MONTHLY 'COVERED DISH' MEAL!

LET US SET ASIDE THE ENTIRE DAY,

1. FOR the study of God's Word!

2. FOR Worship, coming to the LORD'S TABLE! NOTE: INVITE and BRING family and friends— not to a religious show but to BEHOLD and worship THE LAMB OF GOD!

3. FOR the Family of God, as we share a meal and encourage one another. **COME prepared to COMPLETE this phrase: 'The death and Resurrection of Jesus _____!'** (In your own words share a testimony!)

4. FOR rest and gospel good deeds.

REMAINING Sunday Services:

April 8, 15, 22, 29:

1. ALL SUNDAYS: Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship at 10:45am

2. April 8 at 5:30 pm... FAITHFUL MEN.

3. April 15: LORD'S SUPPER at conclusion of the 10:45am worship service. HOME GROUPS at 5:00pm

4. April 22: Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night at 6:00pm—
Shepherding a Child's Heart.

5. April 29: Fifth Sunday Evening Praise & WORSHIP!

