

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 25, June 19, 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."***

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING— CANCELED!

Well... I suppose the title may be shocking for a few... but for most—who cares!? Few churches have a weekly, church-wide prayer meeting; and most of those who do, have few who consistently gather for such prayer. (The day of the week is not sacred... Wednesday evening just happens to be the time that many churches, historically, set aside a time for corporate, or church-wide prayer.)

HOW DARK will it have to get BEFORE we take CHURCH-WIDE, corporate prayer MORE seriously?

IN AMERICA and around the world, the 'HEATHEN' are raging and getting bolder! There are growing indications that persecution may be coming for Bible Christians in America. **HOW DARK will it have to get BEFORE we take Church-wide prayer MORE seriously? In a world of** frightening instability,

where greedy humans jockey for world power and domination— **in such a world, what should be the FOCUS of SOUTHSIDE?**

1. WE NEED TO BE GROUNDED IN CLEAR, BIBLICAL REVELATION: As a result of sin— **the 'FREE WILL' of humans** is radically ENSLAVED to sin! AND, a part of God's sovereign control is that He has ordained "sowing and reaping." **Thus,** men and nations make choices, chart courses, and reap consequences. (Galatians 6:7-8) The wrath of God is not merely 'future tense'— it is now: Romans 1:18-32!

2. More Biblical revelation— God still rules and overrules. Example: Joseph's brothers thought and did evil out of the FREE-WILL wickedness of their own hearts with no enticement from God; but God over-ruled and brought good— Genesis 50:20; Psalm 105:17-19! **This is not just true in ancient history!**

3. Revelation 17 tells us that there is coming a day when **TEN KINGS/Ten nations-** (who have previously been supportive of a worldwide apostate religious system) - **shall turn on,** attack, and destroy that same religious system. **Why will they do it? Because God will place this task in their hearts!** (Revelation 17: 15-18) Almighty God is STILL in Sovereign control of and over all nations! He is carefully working out His purposes and His agenda and not ours! No one can stop Him!

4. ENCOURAGING REALITY: GOD is also in total control of China, Russia, North Korea, every aspect of Islam, the UNITED NATIONS, and all of the 'secret' power elite who might be trying to move to one world government, one world religion, etc. **Satan, men, and nations do all manner of RAGING. (Psalm 2)** However, they cannot frustrate the plans and purposes of God. In spite of current appearances, the 'heathen' and satan don't win! **GOD ALWAYS WINS!**

Furthermore, all of the wicked will be held accountable and judged for their rebellion. Jesus is sovereign, supreme, and sufficient! Read and heed the glorious Unveiling of JESUS CHRIST— Revelation 1-22!

5. THEREFORE: Regardless of the headlines and/or regardless of coming wars, REGARDLESS of economic depressions, persecution of Christians, or whatever— Jesus STILL has a master passion to save the lost and to KEEP ON building His Church!

[A look at the last chapters of the Bible reveals the bottom line ultimate purpose of all human history— all the redeemed- Jew and Gentile: Ephesians 2:11-22; Revelation 21:9-14- as the Bride/wife of the Lamb, seeing Him, serving Him, and reigning with Him for eternity. (Revelation 22:1-7)]

The early disciples of Jesus understood and embraced God's primary agenda!**Thus, when persecuted for the gospel's sake — they made the right response:**

***** Acts 4:24**— they began with Praise to God— which is the Primary focus of Biblical Praying! ***** Acts 4:25**— they 'prayed Scripture'... which gave them a right perspective: The heathen are raging! Realized or not the lost world's rants against and persecutions of Christians are in reality expressions of hatred against JESUS! (Acts 4:25-27)

***** Acts 4:28**— they embraced the over-ruling sovereignty of God in their prayer!

***** Acts 4:29-30**— **they did not pray for personal safety.** They did not take a 'survival course' with a focus on personal survival for self's sake. They did not run to 'Prophecy Hobby' preachers.

***** Acts 4:29-30— they prayed for the LORD to behold the threats of their enemies; they prayed that the LORD grant them ALL boldness in speaking the Word of God...**

***** Acts 4:31-33— they were all given a FRESH FILLING of the Holy Spirit! As a result, they went forth boldly preaching God's message; and great generosity, love, power, and grace was upon them all! Their singular passion was for BOLDNESS to preach the gospel!**

***QUESTIONS WE MUST ASK AND ANSWER:* What is my passion? IN THE MIDST OF THE DEEPENING DARKNESS— HOW DARK will it have to get BEFORE we take Church-wide prayer MORE seriously?**

HOW CAN WE IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

1. LOOKING through the Acts of the Apostles— how did the New Testament Church impact their world? **2.** What do the New Testament Epistles call for from believers? **3.** What do the special letters of Jesus in Revelation 2-3 call for from believers? **4.** How does one 'ADORN' the Gospel? **5.** What causes the Gospel to be BLASPHEMED? **6.** What direction and wisdom can we glean from: Acts 2:37-47; Acts 4:5-33; Acts 5; Acts 6; Acts 8:1-4; Acts 12:1-12??

7. Let us pay close attention to Acts 4:18-33; Acts 4:23-31; Acts 12:12; Acts 21:5!

TRUE REALITY: The congregations in the Book of Acts often gathered **for united prayer! SHOULDN'T WE DO AS THEY DID?**

1. We must REST in God and His sovereignty and be focused on His agenda even as was the New Testament Church.

2. We must pray TOGETHER as a congregation because a FOUNDATIONAL ESSENTIAL for genuine Christianity is to RETURN TO OUR OWN GROUP AND CRY OUT TO GOD— Acts 4:23-33. **HOW DARK will it have to get BEFORE we take Church-wide prayer MORE seriously?**

Dr. David Gibbs of the Christian Law Association got surprised one Wednesday. His background is Baptist. Few Baptists are faithful to church-wide prayer meetings. But for this particular Wednesday a pastor of a Mennonite church had scheduled Dr. Gibbs to speak during their Wednesday night Prayer Service. **The church family DID NOT KNOW that a guest speaker was coming.** The Pastor was driving Dr. Gibbs from the airport to the church building. Dr. Gibbs was trying to prepare himself for what he is about to face, so he asked:

"Pastor, what do you expect tonight in the way of who might show up for the meeting? Pastor, I know it's Wednesday night... and folks do not know I'm coming... I just want you to be at ease, because I'm happy to come and the size of the crowd does not matter..."

The pastor simply said, **"They will all be there!"** So, Dr. Gibbs translated that 'response' into his Baptist experience and figured that a few would show up for a holy huddle.

They arrived. The building was a plain, unattractive block building. The parking lot was full. Dr. Gibbs entered and found bare concrete floors and bare metal folding chairs— OVER 400 HUNDRED metal folding chairs— and they were all filled with the REGULAR PRAYER MEETING CROWD! As the pastor had earlier stated, **"They will all be there!"... and they were!**

These were farming people, with crops to plant, or tend, or harvest. Their days were always long and their work was never done—

HOWEVER, EVERY WEEK on Prayer Meeting Night— THEY WERE ALL THERE! Stunned, Dr. Gibbs turned to the pastor and

asked, "Please explain this to me?" **“Well, Bro. Gibbs,**

(1) We are all family and we are responsible for one another; and

(2) We are commanded to pray for one another; and

(3) We also realize that we need God's wisdom and power if we are to make a difference in our community in reaching others for Christ—

So, we have just as many for Prayer meeting as we do for other Church-wide services...

(4) And, at our Prayer Meeting, the main agenda is PRAYER. We actually spend most of the time praying for each other and for those in the world to whom we seek to reach and minister!”

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CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER MEETING REALITY FOR SOUTHSIDE:

The issue is

(1) Not lack of time;

(2) Nor how tired we are; not shyness...

(3) Nor a thousand other excuses— the issue that each of us has to face up to is this:

What is the level of my DEPENDANCE

UPON GOD, my commitment to God's agenda, and my humility to walk in the example of the Early Church?!

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 doors by gym**)

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

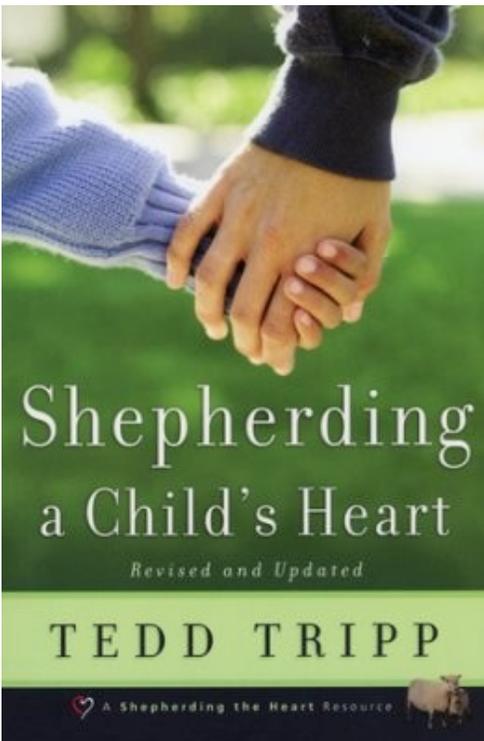
***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 3 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, through double doors, under the Drive Thru Awning. [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... The doors are **re-locked** at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (**STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE!**) 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: JUNE 2018— 24
Sunday School at 9:30am
and Worship at 10:45am

JUNE 24... Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night— 6:00pm!



Meet in Auditorium, come in FRONT DOORS! (Doors will open at 5:30pm, 6/24/18)

1. FAMILY INTEGRATED, that is, it is for the WHOLE family— Grandparents, Parents, Teens, Children. (**Infant & Toddler Nursery available**)

2. All grandparents and parents have FAMILIES in your world who need help, counseling, advice, mentoring— THESE 4TH Sunday Evenings will help you with your own children and grandchildren... as well as EMPOWERING you for ministry to your

neighbors!

3. Tedd Tripp's *SHEPHERDING a Child's Heart*, 12 session series.

4. Arrive and be IN YOUR SEATS by 5:55pm...

Session will start at 6:00pm sharp.

Sessions will last approximately one hour

++ SOUTHSIDE DAY CAMP: June 27-29, 9:30am- 3pm ++

Questions: call Jaden Allen-

615-939-0318