

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 44, October 30, 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.”***

THIS Saturday night— “TURN BACK CLOCKS ONE HOUR!

AMERICA: MID-TERM ELECTION TIME and MORE!

ON NOVEMBER 6, we are scheduled for national mid-term elections; and state and local elections. GROWING multitudes in America continue to push for **RADICAL CHANGE away from traditional American values** which were rooted in a **Ju·de·o·Chris·tian heritage. (Judeo-Christian:** of or pertaining to the religious writings, beliefs, values, or traditions held in common by Judaism and Christianity.)

FOREMOST, we need to be reminded that as Christians we are commanded to pray for those who are in authority, from the President down to the local level. (1 Timothy 2:1-3) **AND,** the New Testament calls upon us to manifest a godly submission to and a respect for government and those in authority: Titus 3:1-7; Romans 13:1-14; 1 Peter 2:13-21. **MOREOVER, in America we still have** the freedom and I believe a keen responsibility to seek to elect those who are closest to Biblical values. **REALITY:** Many politicians are openly, blatantly ***anti-God, pro-sodomy, and in***

favor of continuing to MURDER millions of unborn babies, etc.

Sadly, these positions may continue to prove to be very smart political moves— for they reflect where masses of Americans are already standing! **HOWEVER, LET US NOT JOIN IN WITH THEM!**

Yes, it is true that both national political parties are guilty as sin in spending America into debt. Of course, we all say that we hate the debt— nevertheless **MULTITUDES** of Americans are ready to accept ‘government money’ for their projects and their ‘needs’... and we will worry about the debt later!

ALL THESE THINGS BEING AS THEY MAY BE— JUST WHAT MIGHT BE THE GREATEST DANGER THAT GENUINE CHRISTIANS FACE IN THESE TIMES? Response: We just might forget who we are, whose we are, and why we are here!

THE WORLD WILL BE THE WORLD! A great ‘Babylon Spirit’ invades every nation and every sphere of our world including politics, economics, education, science, religion, you name it! **THE WORLD IS AT HOME IN THE WORLD AND ABOVE ALL ELSE— THE WORLD HATES THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD;** and they will hate those who worship, follow, and serve **JESUS CHRIST AS LORD;** and they hate those who accept the Bible as absolute, final, and inerrant truth!

THEREFORE, AS CHRISTIANS...

WE NEED, WE MUST MAKE A CONFESSION... SOMETHING LIKE THIS —

****** “I am a stranger, an alien on earth, [“temporary residents and foreigners”] a citizen of another country ENTRUSTED with Ambassadorship! (2 Cor. 5:17-21) *** Thus, above all else, I am on earth to represent my KING’S world-wide interests, to carry out His Great Commission!**

******* It just so happens that MY KING is the creator and owner of this little speck, called earth. Yes, He created and owns all that

is... anywhere! And MY KING has an agenda— **and as shocking as it may be, His agenda is not** the temporal prosperity and longevity of the USA or of any other nation!

***** Rather, His agenda** is the saving of a numberless multitude from sin, self, and satan; and saving them from the much deserved and holy wrath of ALMIGHTY GOD; and then GROWING them in Christlikeness!

***** THEREFORE, as a secondary and temporary ‘green card’ citizen of a nation on earth, for us, the USA— I vote** and etc. However, I must not be fretful or bent out of shape or overly fearful if even the worst of bad politicians get elected!

***** For MY KING is still in charge! (Daniel 4:17)** NOTHING can hinder Him from carrying out His agenda. (Ps. 22:28; 103:19; Prov. 21:1; Isa. 43:13)

***** MOREOVER, nothing that happens on earth changes my AMBASSADORSHIP assignments!** (1 Cor. 5:17-21; Matt. 28:18-20; 24:14)”

***** So, YES, vote in November! Encourage others to vote! VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH BIBLICAL VALUES. ***** Vote for those closest to such values!

However, the really important question is this:
ARE there any of US interested in
“Turning the world upside down?”

Many Christians are led to believe that the ONLY way [or certainly the BEST way] for the church to make a powerful impact [to be salt and light] is to be VERY ACTIVE in the fray of earth-bound politics. Well, again, there is certainly a place for all the aspects of being good temporal citizens; and in America that involves voting, and/or actively supporting certain candidates or issues, and/or running for office, etc.

However, the true Bride of Christ is totally unique in the midst of all the groups in the whole world— **we are, in fact, citizens of heaven and we are in this present world as ‘foreigners’... citizens of another nation, Ambassadors for Christ!** As Ambassadors for Christ, we have a unique weapon/strategy with which we can radically and effectively war against evil and actually WIN!

What is this Divine strategy?

It is the Gospel of God’s Amazing Grace, the POWER OF GOD unto salvation! **BUT TODAY, SADLY,** even many Bible-believing Churchmen scoff at those who dare to suggest that the church should focus her energies on living and proclaiming the GOSPEL OF GOD!

Such a strategy is most often met with loud protests of, “So, what you are saying is that we are supposed to sit around and do nothing and let our beloved nation go down the drain!? **Don’t you get it? We are supposed get out into the public square and be SALT AND LIGHT!**”

Yes, we are supposed to be ‘salt and light!’ **BUT HOW?**

Read the Acts of the Apostles! Read the Epistles! Read the 7 letters of Jesus to the Church! Scan 2000 years of Church history— **The only times** that the Church of Jesus Christ has EVER positively revolutionized a community or a country [turned the world upside down] **have been those times when she lived holy, pure, loving, forgiving, caring, serving,** and at the same time boldly proclaimed the GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

TODAY, it is easy for Pastors to be considered bold and brave as they promote the latest “save our nation from the pagans” strategy. **Multi- billions of dollars, with sincere effort to match, have been spent in our life time— ALL SEEKING TO STEM THE TIDE OF SIN AND FILTH** by the primary means of political efforts.

AND YET IT IS UNDENIABLE: The morality of the nation **is not better off today in 2018** than it was before all of these efforts. The flood of filth and the endangerment of cherished freedoms are rising at an alarming rate in spite of all these MASSIVE and sincere political efforts led by religious conservatives.

BUT FAR MORE IMPORTANT, during this same time period— that same flood of SIN filth has been and is RISING right in the memberships of the conservative, fundamental, Bible-believing, Evangelical and Charismatic and Pentecostal churches of America! **This is not the way to be ‘salt and light!’** But it is a sure way to bring divine judgment! (Matthew 5:13)

STUDY CHURCH HISTORY: There have been times when the church greatly AFFECTED THE PUBLIC SQUARE IN VERY GODLY WAYS!

In every case, it was the overflow of REVIVAL that first brought a backslidden church to brokenness and repentance over her own sins!

*****Those revivals brought** a recession among all the ‘sin businesses’ of the land as church folk stop buying ‘sin’ products!

*** Moreover, when sinners truly get saved— ‘sin dealers’ experience recession and get mad! (Acts 16:14-24; 19:13-20)

Real revival **confronts us** in the daily issues of life! There are organizations that publish **SCORECARDS** on political candidates. So, here is a SCORECARD for saints!

What Does My (Your) lifestyle reflect about the BIBLICAL ISSUES/VALUES that are raised by the following questions? (Listed in no particular order; not a complete list.)

The effectiveness of our Ambassadorship is at stake!

1. DEFICIT SPENDING: Do I live within my means? Do I refuse to spend money I don't have? Am I debt-free, or at least seriously working toward being debt-free?

(THE BIBLE TELLS US that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil; and that if we are not faithful with 'unrighteous mammon'... who can trust us with true riches!?)

2. SOCIAL SECURITY / CARE FOR THE ELDERLY: Do I honor my parents? Am I committed to providing for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs? Do I respect the elderly, listen to their counsel, and learn from their lives? Am I laying up treasures in heaven?

3. WELFARE / POVERTY: Am I compassionately aware of the needs of the poor around me? Do I give sacrificially of time and financial resources so as to minister to the needs of the poor? Do I do what I can to help feed the poor, and to seek ways to help others to be productive rather than shifting all responsibility to the government?

4. SANCTITY OF LIFE: Do I agree with the Bible that all human life is precious to God? Do I place equal value on those that the world would consider unattractive or undesirable? Do I view children as a gift from God? Do I agree with the Bible that God opens and closes the womb, and that children ought to be welcomed? Do I agree that the murder of children [born or unborn] is wrong?

5. EDUCATION: Am I faithful and diligent in teaching my children the ways of God? Am I a student of the Word of God, so that I may be an unashamed workman, able to give sound reasons for my hope in Christ? Do I help fellow Christians to know the life changing truth and reality of God's Word? Do I seek to educate the lost in my world with the Gospel of Christ? **Does my life MODEL the Word of God that I am teaching?**

6. PRAYER AND BIBLE READING: Do I read, study and meditate upon the Word of God on a daily basis? Do I encourage fellow

saints to do the same? Do I cultivate a life of prayer? Do I gather with the church family for prayer? Do I seek to APPLY the Word of God in my daily living?

7. VIOLENT CRIME: Am I free from an angry, contentious, and violent temper? Can I honestly say that there is no one that I have stolen from, cheated, or wronged and not gone back to them to make it right? **The tongue has the power of DEATH!** Is my tongue CRUCIFIED to such VIOLENT CRIME? Is my tongue a giver of LIFE?

8. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Am I patient, loving, gentle, kind and self-controlled in my relationships with my spouse and children? DO I PERSONALLY OPPOSE abortion and train my family to likewise respect human life, especially of the helpless?

**** AM I allowing Domestic Violence to flood my heart and my family's hearts by means of productions from Hollywood? Am I free from the many horrible paths of **the violence of immorality, in mind and in practice, in what I look at and in how I treat others sexually?**

9. DEFENSE: Am I fully alert to the strategies and deceptions of the devil? Do I consciously put on the whole armor of God? The best defense is a good offense— thus, am I cultivating genuine faith-obedience to God? Am I diligently seeking to love God with all my heart? Am I 'my brother's keeper' in spiritual battle?

10. FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Am I personally involved in BRINGING PEACE to our world through LIVING the GOSPEL of PEACE and by sharing the Gospel of Christ with the lost? Am I actively involved in praying for and financially supporting missionaries and ministries that are proclaiming the PEACE OF Christ around the world? Am I seriously obeying the Biblical command to pray for those in authority?

Am I a serious student of the Word of God, so that I understand the times and know how to respond...or am I a robot slave to the world's News media?

11. CHARACTER and INTEGRITY: Am I honest in all my business and financial dealings? Is there any relationship, practice, or habit in my life that I would be ashamed to have publicly exposed? Is my private lifestyle consistent with what others think of me?

12. TRUTHFUL / KEEPS PROMISES: Do I keep my word? Do I keep my marriage vows? **** **If I was tried in court and accused of being a real Christian— would there be ABUNDANT EVIDENCE to bring about a conviction?** (The original idea for this list came from Life Action Ministries)

BOTTOM LINES:

1. An election is coming up— Vote in line with Biblical values! Remember: You and I are citizens of America.

2. More importantly, we are Ambassadors for Christ to a foreign and temporary land! *** **Follow** Jesus! *** **Fish** for men! *** **Build up** Saints!

3. Political clout is not sufficient for the task at hand! Revived, Holy Spirit filled Christians, boldly living and boldly preaching the gospel is the UNIQUE and powerful need of the hour!

CHRISTIANS! WE ARE PRESENT TO BE used of God for the turning of our world upside down by the Gospel— ONE SOUL AT A TIME!"

Grace to all! / James Bell/ www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. (This ministry is presently ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

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—

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...**

(Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, November 6 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!***) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

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SUNDAY SERVICES: November 4, 11, 18, 25

Sunday School at 9:30am // Worship at 10:45am

NOTES as to meetings AFTER Morning Worship Services:

1. NOVEMBER 4 — Noon, Covered Dish Fellowship Meal!

****6:00PM... John MacKay, the 'Creation Guy' from Down-Under!***

THEME: 'How marvelous are Thy works O LORD!' (A look at how powerful and clever the Lord Jesus is...

***in Creation, Flood, and Salvation!)* — 6-7pm; and Great Q & A till 7:30pm — Suits all ages!**

2. November 11— 5:30pm... Monthly Faithful Men's Meeting

3. November 18— LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of Morning Worship // HOME GROUPS... 5pm

4. November 25 — 6:00pm... Church-wide EQUIPPING HOUR, presently: SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART!

Advance notes on December Schedule:

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

ALL 5 SUNDAYS: Sunday School at 9:30am // Worship at 10:45am

ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:

1. December 2 — Noon, Covered Dish Fellowship Meal! (This year, instead of missing a Sunday School for a brunch... we will focus on this 12/2 COVERED DISH MEAL... 'Lunch or Brunch' items are welcome!)

2. December 9— 5:30pm... Monthly Faithful Men's Meeting

3. December 16— DURING the worship hour, the Choir and/or others... will share extra music, as we REJOICE in the BIRTH OF CHRIST]; WE WILL PREACH the Word of God; and conclude with the LORD'S SUPPER! NO evening HOME GROUPS

4. December 23— NO evening service

5. December 30— NO 5TH Sunday Evening Service