

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 32, August 20, 2019 / 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.***

SOUTHSIDE LEAVES the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)!

Over the last number of months, several Southsiders who are somewhat aware of the strong and sad movements in the SBC away from clear Biblical positions— these members began to ask the question: **Why are we still in the SBC?** In reality, not feeling totally at home in the SBC has a long history at Southside, dating back to the early 1970s, when Bro. Jim Binkley was the pastor. FROM THOSE DAYS until now— Southside send no funds to the SBC Cooperative Program, so as to avoid 'tithes/offerings' being used to fund liberalism in SBC colleges/seminaries and/or in other SBC entities. Our Mission giving was sent to the International Mission Board. In the early 80s, we began to designate mission offerings to specific missionaries whom we either sent out from Southside or whom we came to know.

[NOTE: in the early 80s we had serious discussions at Southside as to whether or not 'deacons have governing authority'... plus, we started Southside Christian School. As a result of those issues, during a one year period, about HALF of the congregation left. During that time, a Bledsoe Baptist pastor came to me and said that Southside was a TOPIC of negative discussion at an Associational Meeting — the bottom line was that, according to them, we were having trouble because we did not support missions. (In reality, we were supporting missions more than ever... but just not through SBC channels.) SO, I simply took a 'sabbatical' of any involvement in the local association. After Bro. Mike Pennington came to Bledsoe, we stepped forward in seeking to participate where ever we could... and for this, we are thankful. Brother Mike has been a special blessing to us on more than one occasion.]

FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT: On 7/20/19, at our monthly Elders/Deacons meeting one of the Elders brought the subject of SBC membership up for discussion. There was full agreement, that all things considered, it is time for Southside to leave the convention; and there was also agreement to bring the matter before the congregation. On 7/24/19... we mailed a 10 PAGE letter to the church, calling for an “Open Forum” on Sunday, August 18. The letter explained some of the ‘whys’ as to the necessity of this matter. PORTIONS OF THAT LETTER are printed below, for the purpose of giving explanation as to why we have made the decision to leave the SBC.

OPEN FORUM: We have used this ‘OPEN FORUM process’ when needing to carry out Church discipline, ordain Elders or Deacons, and/or make any MAJOR decision. At Southside, **we do not have ‘Business Meetings’ with ‘motions, second the motion, and votes’** on matters— WHICH in many cases leave a congregation with ‘winners vs losers’ on matters of church business. **INSTEAD,** information is given prior to an Open Forum, everyone is encouraged to pray, opportunity is given to COMMENT and/or ASK questions of Elders and/or Deacons. THEN, at the Open Forum, we simply discuss whatever matter is before us... making comments, asking questions, etc. Then, IF OR WHEN it is clear that all who desire have expressed themselves... IF THERE SEEMS TO BE UNITY... then, the question is asked: “Are we all at peace, all on the same page about this decision?” IF WE ARE... it will be clearly obvious on everyone’s faces...AND SO, WE PROCEED. IF WE ARE NOT, WE DO NOT PROCEED.

SUCH WAS THE CASE on 8/18/19. In peaceful unity we MADE THE DECISION to remove ourselves, the congregation of Southside Baptist Church, from any and all specific SBC or SBC related membership. Now, it was not that any of us were HAPPY for the occasion... **But in our view here is what has happened:** HISTORICALLY, the Southern Baptist Convention has been basically Biblically solid across the board. Southside, by the grace of God, has a long history of seeking to be BIBLE-BELIEVING, Biblically true.

It is not really that we ‘left the Convention’... but the SBC... WHO has LEFT US and other TRADITIONAL SBC CHURCHES. MOREOVER, these UNBIBLICAL VOICES are not being REBUKED by any in high leadership. And the FEW who have tried to bring REBUKE, HAVE BEEN SOUNDLY REJECTED. **THUS, IN ORDER to maintain integrity** in our Bible-believing path, we believe we were left with no choice but to break formal affiliation with the

SBC, including the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Bledsoe Baptist Association.

That being said, the Bledsoe Association/Bro Mike Pennington, the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board will remain on our MISSIONARY PRAYER SHEET... which we use for PRAYER every week. Moreover, as to any SBC pastors and/or churches whom we know— we have no animosity, no judgment; and as the LORD may lead... we trust to have interaction and ministry from time to time.

BUT WE WOULD ALSO EXHORT OURSELVES AND ONE AND ALL, with the Words of J.C. Ryle— ***“We should no more tolerate FALSE DOCTRINE than we would tolerate sin!”***

7/24/19... PORTIONS OF THE LETTER SENT TO OUR CONGREGATION:

We began by quoting portions from Southside’s Church Constitution’s statement about our AFFILIATION with other churches: **AFFILIATION. SECTION 1.** We acknowledge no ecclesiastical authority other than our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church ([Ephesians 5:23](#)) and who directs the affairs of the church through elders chosen and ordained according to the precepts of Holy Scripture. The elders themselves at all times and in all their activities stand under the authority of Holy Scripture.

SECTION 2. Southside Baptist Church began as a Southern Baptist Church. We are evangelical, fundamental, and conservative in our beliefs and practice. We are an autonomous congregation. We support specific missionaries whom we believe to be sound in the faith. We teach from the Bible and use various fundamentally sound materials.

We rejoice that our identity and affiliation is first and foremost that of being "in Christ" with all others who are saved by grace. Moreover, our identity is found in the person of Jesus Christ, not in a denominational or non-denominational tag. We have fellowship, affiliation and association with Bible-believing Southern Baptists. However, the fundamental issue is that we are disciples of Jesus, Christians, saints, and brothers and sisters with all who form the true Bride of Christ. In fact, we rejoice in our liberty and privilege of having fellowship with other Christians who are evangelical and fundamental even though their church title or "tag" might be different from ours. The church may and does cooperate with other like-minded churches in matters of mutual interest and concern. We may seek the assistance and counsel of other churches in matters of special concern to us, but the decision of no other church or group of churches shall at any time be acknowledged as binding on this church.,

Furthermore, we believe that in the long history of the Church, the true saints of God have been and are known from time to time by various titles. We rejoice in the rich heritage of countless thousands who have gone before us, laying down their lives for Jesus and His glorious Gospel of Grace.

We do especially rejoice in those Christians called "Baptists", who in years gone by, were not so called because they were insecure of being identified as "Christians" or "followers of the Lord Jesus Christ", but rather in dark hours of history when the visible church was teaching salvation by works and salvation through their denomination, and when they baptized or sprinkled infants and held to many other heresies, God sustained those who embraced the basic doctrines of our own statement of faith.

Because they held to the basic doctrines of grace and, therefore, "believer's baptism", they were ridiculed, persecuted, killed, and called by their enemies "Anabaptists" (those who baptized again)... The point is this: After confessing that I am a Christian, it is also an honor, historically, to be called a Baptist. For to be so called is to suffer reproach for holding true to the Scriptures and our Savior. So may it ever be among the Christians at Southside Baptist Church. However, to hold the title in pride or in the sense of denominationalism and in pre-eminence over being "just Christians" is not only against Scripture but is not baptistic!

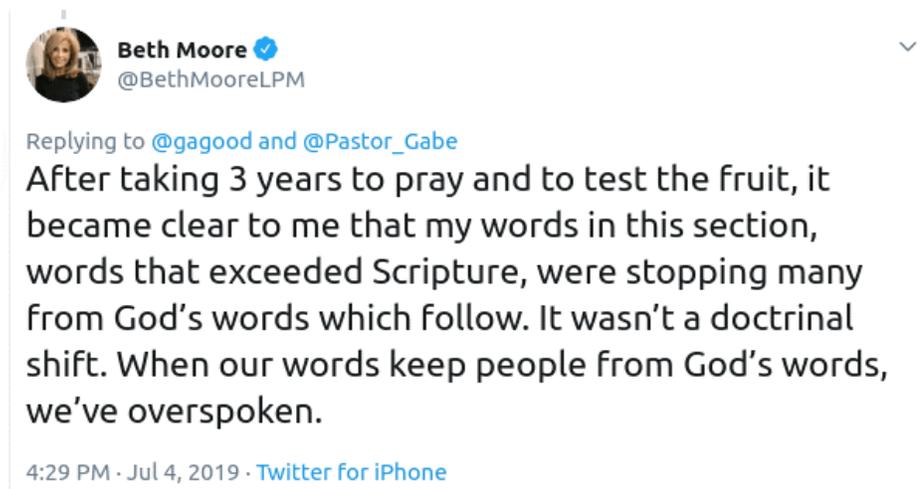
The present tragic reality is that the Southern Baptist Convention now has KEY LEADERS in places of HIGH AUTHORITY and INFLUENCE who are directing Southern Baptists AWAY from clear Biblical truth. SADLY, what follows is just the 'tip of the iceberg'... BUT FOR example: There is growing acceptance of various forms of sodomy by SBC LEADERS.

RECENTLY a group of godly, female Bible teachers published an open letter to Beth Moore urging her to clarify her doctrinal position on homosexuality. **Moore insisted that her doctrinal views on homosexuality had not shifted over the course of her ministry. On page 279 of Beth Moore's book, Praying God's Word, originally published in 2009, Moore writes: (And this is an EXCELLENT STATEMENT)**

"Before we proceed to our Scripture-prayers for overcoming sexual strongholds, we are wise to address another deadly sexual assault of the evil one in our society: homosexuality. I have wonderful news for anyone

who has struggled with homosexual sin. God indeed can deliver you and anxiously awaits your full cooperation. Do not let Satan shame you into not seeking forgiveness, fullness, and complete restoration in Jesus Christ. I know complete transformation is possible not only because God's Word says so, but because I have witnessed it with my own eyes. I know plenty of believers who have been set free from homosexuality..."

HOWEVER, NOW... THE ABOVE QUOTE which agrees with the Word of God, has been removed from the Kindle version of this book. When questioned as to why this section was removed from the present 'kindle' edition, Moore said:



IN THE 2009 book, Moore calls homosexuality sinful and then urges people to seek repentance and forgiveness — to flee from it. That, in no way, is “exceeding Scripture.” NOW, she insists that by calling homosexuality a sin, that she is making people feel “demonized,” and “doing more harm than good.”



IN ADDITION, BETH has the following words of slanderous accusation toward those who have confronted her with her rejection of clear Bible truth:

“I will not be the last witch in this witch-hunt... think long and hard Evangelicals about what the public landscape will look like with everybody elbowed out at heretics but the HYPER FUNDAMENTALISTS!”

SO.... TO STAND FOR THE CLEAR WORD OF GOD IS TO BE SLANDERED BY MOORE AS A ‘HYPER FUNDAMENTALIST!’... How sad....

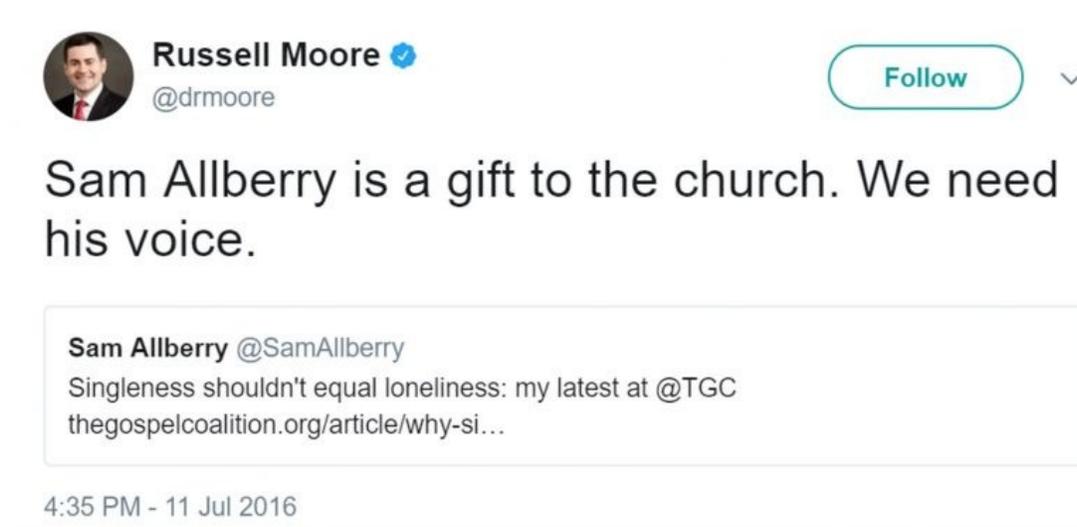
BUT SAYS ONE: Beth Moore is only one person. YES, however no one in SBC leadership is correcting her... or calling for her to repent... and her influence is affecting millions... In fact, many are **DEFENDING HER.**

Sam Allberry is a gay priest in the Anglican Church who speaks at and is promoted by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention... and Russell Moore is the head of the ERLC. Allberry suggested that family’s should allow open homosexuals to “babysit” your children unsupervised.

Sam Allberry — is a man **who identifies as** “same-sex attracted,” and has confirmed **that he has “sexual, romantic and deep-emotional attractions to people of the same sex!”**

Sam is a darling of the evangelical leftist outlets such as The Gospel Coalition and the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Russell Moore says this about Sam:



Recently, JD Greear, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention preached a sermon — from Romans 1, mind you — **where he insisted that the Bible doesn't really have all that much to say about sexual immorality**, and is much more vocal about other sins such as materialism and boasting. The truth is, the Bible actually teaches that sexual immorality is a judgment from God for other sins — it is God “giving over” to “vile affections” and “dishonorable passions” those who are in rebellion against Him. In other words, sexual immorality, in Scripture and according to God’s law, is among the most grievous sins and dealt with most harshly by God.

At the 2018 SBC annual Convention, held in Dallas, Texas, Dr. Robert Oscar Lopez, a professor at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth.... submitted a powerful resolution on LGBT issues titled *On Ministry and Counseling to Lead People from Homosexuality to Heterosexuality*. The resolution basically reiterated fairly standard Christian teaching on homosexuality: **Among other things:** No one is “born gay” and “cannot change”; To say “I am gay” is a rejection of God’s design.

It stated: "RESOLVED, the Southern Baptist Convention rejects as heresy any claims that God makes people homosexual..." It went on to say that reparative therapy and similar efforts to free a person from the grip of homosexuality should be supported by the SBC.

The Resolutions Committee refused to allow it to go to the floor for a vote, claiming that it needed “more clarification.” However, on the last

day one individual was able to come to the podium to speak. He began to call for this resolution to be voted on, but the Chairman interrupted him and announced that the Convention time was over and adjourned the meeting!

HERE IS THE EXCELLENT rejected RESOLUTION....

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18b/MR-TX-SBC-Resolution/images/Lopez-SBC-Resolution.pdf>

Russell Moore is one of the heads of the Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT), a front group for the George Soros-funded National Immigration Forum (NIF) which calls for open borders and amnesty for illegal aliens. The fact that the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission head, Russell Moore, has never had to explain his association with George Soros is telling of the direction the denomination has gone. It has long been known that the Evangelical Immigration Table has been a progressive front group **whose sole purpose is to influence Evangelicals to the liberal left on the issue of immigration. Its agenda is open borders and globalism.** TRAGIC REALITY... Southern Baptist rank and file members, unknowingly, are FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING a man who is teamed up with George Soros. Let that sink in!

[From the Capstone Report] **A prominent Southern Baptist pastor attacked the Patriarchy, (the biblical practice of only qualified men serving as Pastors/Elders; and preaching/teaching before MEN... And that women are not to preach/teach men)...**

Pastor Dwight McKissic likened the oppression of African Americans by whites to the suppression of women in Southern Baptist churches today.

“The same spirit that drove the oppression of African Americans also, drove and drives the suppression of women exercising their full complement of spiritual gifts beyond biblical parameters. The Bible was & is being used & abused to support racism & the suppression of women gifts,” tweeted Dwight McKissic.

(AGAIN.... THIS IS NOT MERELY AN INDIVIDUAL PASTOR... BUT ONE WHO SBC leadership have been giving a ‘nation-wide stage’ to influence SBC CHURCHES.... **To influence the SBC away from clear Biblical truth.**)

The President of the SBC, J.D. Greear, claims Christians and Muslims worship the same God. The stunning claims were

made in his book; and in an interview with The Gospel Coalition's Trevin Wax. "Trevin Wax: **You make the case that Muslims do worship the same God as Christians, although with obvious errors in understanding.** "J.D. Greear: **I think the question of whether or not you use the Arabic name for God - Allah - is more of a practical question than a theological one.**" From Greear's book *Breaking the Islam Code*: "Believing wrong things about God and worshipping him incorrectly doesn't mean one is worshipping a different God" (p.59).

Nabeel Qureshi rejected this type of thinking promoted by J.D. Greear. The late Christian convert from Islam said, "Christians worship Yahweh, the Trinity, whereas Muslims worship Allah, a monad. This is not an incidental difference; Islam makes every effort to condemn the Trinity as blasphemy (4.171). The Quran rejects the relational aspects of God, saying that he's not a father (5.18) and he's not a son (112.3). It establishes its own doctrine of God, Tawhid, in diametric opposition to the Trinity, and that doctrine becomes the central doctrine of Islamic theology.

"Most people who say Christians and Muslims worship the same God are aware of this difference, but they treat it as relatively inconsequential. **This is not a trivial difference, though; it has major implications... Ultimately,** when we understand the Trinity, we realize that the doctrine is not just a theological curiosity. It has far-reaching implications for how we ought to live and how we see the world, and it makes the Christian God categorically different from the Muslim God."

IN LIGHT OF ALL OF THIS TRAGIC REALITY... AND SO MUCH MORE...

On July 20, 2019, after a time of discussion, all of the Elders, our Pastor's assistant, and Deacons were in agreement...

AND ON 8/18/19, THE SOUTHSIDE CONGREGATION MADE A UNITED DECISION: BECAUSE the leadership of the SBC has left and/or is weak on key Biblical positions; and because they have turned a deaf ear to those who have tried to stand against their departure— **we, of necessity, leave the convention.**

****** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

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

Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

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

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via **IRON STEPS**, side door.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**.

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am:** (*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!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST 25

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

****** AUGUST 25 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**

