

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 14, April, 7 2020 / 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.***

**MEDITATION upon HIM who is VITAL—
JESUS: *Crucified! **Risen! ***BUILDING HIS CHURCH!
****COMING BACK!**

In a fallen world it is common for there to be DISTRACTIONS from that which is necessary and vital! The enemy of our souls never rests!

Multitudes are flooded with all-consuming FEAR as to health and survival. Lost or over shadowed by all the panic is a much more important reality— THE VIRUS OF SIN is PANDEMIC!

** THE INFECTION and DEATH RATE is beyond STUNNING— 100%!
** THE CONSEQUENCES ARE ETERNAL! HOWEVER, FEW ARE THEY who are alarmed and alert to their deadly infection! THUS,

1. O SINNER, FLEE TO CHRIST! Here is a gospel presentation to help: <https://www.monergism.com/coming-faith-christ>

2. O CHRISTIAN, in the deepening darkness, let us embrace this GRAND and OPEN SECRET— BEHOLD JESUS! (2 Cor. 3:18) MEDITATE UPON HIS MERCIES! (Romans 12:1-2; Romans 1-11) The more we sit at His feet to KNOW Him, the more we will love Him; and the more **we become like Him!**

AND THUS, the more we will be steadfast, unmovable, and abounding in the WORK of the LORD! (1 Cor. 15:56-58)
Therefore, let us receive the following Scriptures; and worship, praise, and give thanks to God for SO GREAT SALVATION.

As we do, we shall more and more be TRANSFORMED into His likeness; and EMPOWERED and steadfast as His laborers in the midst of the darkness!

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

1. Propitiate (absorb/satisfy) the just and righteous Wrath of God: “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” (Galatians 3:13) “[JESUS] Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.” (Romans 3:25) “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

2. Please His Heavenly Father: “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief:..” (Isaiah 53:10a) “... Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.” [a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God] (Eph. 5:2)

3. Learn Obedience and be Perfected: “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8) “For it became Him, [It was fitting that He] for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:10)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

4. Achieve His Own Resurrection from the Dead; and empower His redeemed in resurrection LIVING! “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ***Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in*** you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

5. Show the Wealth of God’s Love and Grace for Sinners... REVEALING core truth which the redeemed must never forget: “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure [perhaps] for a good man some would even dare to die. ***But God commendeth [shows, proves] His love toward us,*** in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV) ***“In whom we have*** redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

6. Show His Love for His Chosen: “Christ hath **loved us** and gave Himself up **for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2) “Christ loved the church and hath **given Himself for us** an offering and sacrifice to God...” (Ephesians 5:25) “[He] loved **me** and gave Himself for **me**.” (Galatians 2:20)

NOTE: This is NOT stroking your ego to embrace this clear BIBLICAL TRUTH. Rather, we are left in AWE that we who were

unworthy, unloving, and unresponsive... should be so loved and chosen in Him from before the foundation of the world! (Eph. 1:3-14)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

7. Cancel the Legal and Righteous Demands of the Law Against Us: “And you, being dead in your sins... hath He quickened [made alive] together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us [canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands], which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way [set it aside], nailing it to His cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)

8. Provide the Forgiveness of our Sins: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.” (Ephesians 1:7) “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

9. Complete the Obedience that becomes our Righteousness: “Being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8) “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19)

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 “...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ.” (Philippians 3:9)

10. Bring us to Faith and EMPOWER us to be Faithful: This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. (Mark

14:24) I will make with them an everlasting covenant... And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me. (Jeremiah 32:40)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

11. Give Eternal Life to All who Believe on Him: For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

NOTE: Any sinner who repents and believes— NOW THAT THEY ARE IN CHRIST, they are SURPRISED! They do not pat themselves on the back, “O, this was the best decision I ever made!”... RATHER, now for the first time seeing the depth of their lostness (Eph. 2:1-3); they embrace and give thanks for GOD’S AMAZING GRACE! (Eph. 2:4-10)... *“O LORD, just like YOU OPENED LYDIA’S HEART; SO YOU OPENED MINE!”* (Acts 16:14)

12. Reconcile us to God: For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

13. Bring us to God: Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. (1 Peter 3:18) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

14. Give us Confident Access to the Holiest Place: We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus. (Heb. 10:19)

15. Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness,

but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Heb. 15-16)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

16. Free us from the Slavery of Sin: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Rev. 1:5-6 Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. (Hebrews 13:12)

17. Empower us to Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness: He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. (1 Peter 2:24)

18. Make His Cross the Ground of All Our Boasting: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

19. Enable us to live by Faith in Him: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, bur Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

20. Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning: Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

21. Create a People Passionate for Good Works: (He) gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

22. Call us to Follow His Example of Lowliness and Costly Love: This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrow while suffering unjustly... For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, so that you might follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:19-21) Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Heb. 12:3-4)

23. Create a Band of Crucified Followers: If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23. Whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. (Matthew 10:38)

24. Free Us from Bondage to the Fear of Death: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

25. Enable us to be with Him Immediately After Death: (He) died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10) To live is Christ, and to die is gain... I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Philippians 1:21, 23) We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

26. Secure Our Resurrection from the Dead: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (Romans 6:5)

27. Unleash the Power of God in the Gospel: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18) I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

28. Destroy the Hostility Between Races: He... has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Eph. 2:14-16)

29. Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation: Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood you ransomed

people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Rev. 5:9)

30. Rescue us from Final Judgment: Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. (Hebrews 9:28)

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

31. Be Crowned with Glory and Honor: But we see... Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death. (Hebrews 2:9) And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:7-9) Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! (Revelation 5:12)

32. Show That FROM the Worst Evil, God works for Good: In this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus... both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. (Acts 4:27-28) **[The above 32 points, edited from John Piper's book, *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*]**

'OPEN' SECRETS for Christians in the midst of DARK DAYS:

* **[1]** THOSE GRIPPED and TRANSFORMED by the Gospel [Drink deeply of Romans 1-11] experience Motivation for faithful service

to Christ, (Rom 12:1-2); ** **[2]** CHRISTIANS, persecuted for the Gospel, who pray IN ONE ACCORD for boldness to advance the gospel will experience GREAT power and GREAT grace! (Acts 4:23-33; Ps 2); *** **[3]** CHRISTIANS must go to the LORD of the harvest in prayer! HE WILL SEND FORTH HIS LABORERS! (Matt 9:36-38; Luke 10:17-20); and **** **[4]** WE MUST TURN AWAY FROM SIN—The Holy Spirit WILL THEN bring forth new, GENUINE converts and laborers! (See, Acts 5:1-14)

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell [SEE ADENDUM: INDIA]

PERSPECTIVE: INDIA

1. Population... 1.3 BILLION people living in a nation 1/3 the size of the USA! 2. 8.4 million people die every year in India which comes to 22,500 per day approximately. 3. NEARLY 5.8 million Indians die from Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) like heart, lung diseases, stroke, cancer, and diabetes) every year

4. INDIA IS A LEADING NATION WITH THE HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OF TB: 10 million people had TB in 2018. TB kills 1.5 million Indians every year

5. While India has MANY millions who are wealthy... MILLIONS of hard working Indians are migrants... they live in one state... and work in another... often, 100s and 100s of miles from home. They send money home for their families... who they only get to see a few times a year.

6. NOW the Indian government, (basically on 'orders' from the UNITED NATIONS), HAVE the entire nation on LOCK DOWN... because of COVID-19. This has created incredible CHAOS and SUFFERING for millions- Now, they have no jobs, no income, and no food...

7. They are well accustomed to suffering, limited resources, DEADLY DISEASES that kill millions every year... *BUT NOW...*

*because of the LOCK-DOWN (because of COVID-19)... **IN ADDITION**, millions have no job, no food, no way to provide the bare needs of their families— with these necessities now lacking-- **their HEALTH will decline even more...***

8. WOW... INDIA must be having hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 cases and MANY THOUSANDS of death from this bad virus...

9. Actually, no... the draconian lock down was ordered a few days back... when the COVID-19 death total was under 100.

10. As of Monday, April 6, 2020... the Coronavirus Death toll is up to 111; the number of cases stands at 4,281.

11. O BUT THERE IS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR MASSIVE DEATHS from COVID-19!

12. Yes... AND Indians deal with that sort of thing yearly... with, for example, the HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OF TB.... ***and without causing massive ADDITIONAL suffering among mega MILLIONS of family bread-winners.... without automatically creating an EVEN MORE UNHEALTHY nation in which to live...***

13. *SO HAS our whole world (At least until 2020!)....* And without utterly destructive massive LOCK DOWNS.... where the supposed 'cure' is worse than the disease!

14. BUT PRAISE THE LORD! IN THE MIDST OF SUCH DARKNESS... God has His servants serving! Please read the following... respond as you are so led. [FYI... we have known and prayed for and supported Bobby Gupta and the Hindustan Bible Institute for over 30 years. We commend them to you! The following is edited from communication from the HBI ministry.]



BOBBY GUPTA... a report on ministry efforts in the midst of **NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN** *[Verification testimony: That this report shows Bobby hands-on serving, is not a mere 'photo-shoot' for the article. I say that because I have been at Bobby's side, out in the streets in cities of India, long hours at a time, with him doing hands-on ministry! James Bell]....*
BOBBY WRITES:

"Greetings from Chennai, India

"When the whole country was shut down companies ceased operating and building projects were abruptly stopped. This left millions on the street. The only option left for them was to walk back home to their villages 80 to 800 kilometers away. As I watched videos showing thousands of migrant workers walking with their children, I knew we had to do something for them.

People are still on the roads. This is why we need to do as much as we can immediately. We are mobilizing our churches and centers throughout the country to reach out wherever they are to see how we can help these people to reach home. Today, despite many suggesting that I should not go, I had the privilege of traveling north of HBI with two of our directors. We visited two

district emergency government camps where we have been given permission to serve.



We are now providing two meals a day to as many people as we possibly can. I personally had the privilege of serving almost a hundred people today. I am appealing to you because there are at least 10 more days before the lockdown may be lifted. I am asking you to please prayerfully consider how you can help. This is an incredible opportunity for them to experience Christ's love.

They are without water and food. They have no home, no bathrooms and no opportunity to enable their economy. The state has allowed them to be on vacant land and has given us the privilege of reaching out and helping them.

One old man said, ***“there is no way for us to make money, no food for us to eat, no one cares for us, how are we going to survive”.*** My heart was broken when I heard the man crying out. ***What a privilege that we would serve him and be with him at least until the 14th. What a joy to see them eat their food.***

Thank you for allowing me to share the burden that God has placed in my heart and I trust that God will enable all of us to make a difference in the lives of these people who desperately need our help.

I understand that it could be challenging in a time like this to be generous... **As God prompts you to participate in this need to help these people, will you please send donations designated to “HBI India” and donate online**

Your servant in the mission, Dr. Paul (Bobby) Gupta
President HBI Global Partners

<https://www.hbiglobalpartners.org/donate/>

[YES... THEY WILL BE PRAYING and looking for GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES, as they have for over 50 years!]