

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 23, June 9, 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

***** REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE *****

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... OR if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick— WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ATTEND any of our gathered services. [If you have • **Fever**; • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.... **please stay home!**]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such.

3. WE EXPECT THAT EACH OF YOU WILL DO YOUR PART IN personal hygiene. ***IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP before leaving... and once outside the bathroom... use nearby SANITIZER.***

4. WE encourage 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... BUT MOST OF ALL, WE ENCOURAGE LOVING ONE ANOTHER, RESPECTING EACH OTHER ON MATTERS LIKE THIS; WHERE WE ARE NOT ALL AT THE SAME PLACE IN OUR CONVICTIONS and/or FREEDOM.

[VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: So, you are young or younger and in great health and have a good immune system, etc... and YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FREEDOM you have. Fine.

HOWEVER, when you are approaching an older saint... one who is more SUSCEPTIBLE to COVID-19 and/or other diseases; or you are approaching a younger person who is taking precautions which you deem unnecessary— HERE IS WHAT YOU MUST DO:

BECAUSE YOU LOVE THEM... you will not only make sure you do not violate the space that they believe they need or 'lecture' them that the virus is nothing... or that they just need to trust God! — No you will HONOR them; and YOU WILL ALSO help make sure that others also do all they can to make such precious ones feel safe.]

IT'S MORAL / SPIRITUAL MID-NIGHT— WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE. WE MUST RECEIVE AND APPLY THIS WARNING TO US: ROMANS 1:18-24 ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [SURPRESS] the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴ **Wherefore God also gave them up to** uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

WHAT /WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING? WHAT SHOULD WE BE SEEING?

1. Surely our eyes need to be opened to the present tense WRATH of Holy God— the judgment of God RELEASING RESTRAINTS!

2. Increasingly, we (Even in the supposed 'Bible-believing' churches) are not RICH TOWARD GOD and our moral lifestyle is all too

similar to that of the culture! **JESUS has already warned us that 'saltless salt' will be trampled underfoot**, (Matthew 5:13); and He repeated warns His churches— 'REPENT or ELSE! (Revelation 2-3) REALITY: GOD IS NOT CALLING US TO LAMENT HOW BADLY THE WORLD IN TREATING US— RATHER, HE IS CALLING US TO BE SALT AND LIGHT!

3. Under the Old Covenant, Israel was entrusted with the call to **show the world what a people would be like whose God was the true and living God!** (Deut. 7:6-10; Ex. 19:4-6) In advance, God warned Israel what would happen if they turned away from God: "When you do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that you shall surely perish quickly from the land ... **You shall not live long on it, but shall be utterly destroyed. And the Lord will scatter you among the nations, where the Lord shall drive you.**" (Deut. 4:25-27)

"...If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law ... **you shall be torn from the land** where you are entering to possess it. Moreover, the Lord will scatter you among all peoples." (See... Deut. 28:63-68) When ISRAEL REJECTED THEIR CALL, God used [And I believe, He still uses!] cruel and wicked nations to chasten: Isaiah 10:5-6; Habakkuk 5-12.

4. IN TODAY'S NEW COVENANT ERA, CHRISTIANS HAVE A UNIQUE CALLING: "**YOU ARE** a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people [A people claimed by God for His own, comprised of 'Jew and Gentile']; **that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His marvelous light;**..." (1 Peter 2:9-10)

REMINDER: Every born again Christian, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, is motivated, empowered, and under orders to BE HIS WITNESSES, to GO TO ALL NATIONS making, marking, and maturing Disciples of Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47) **This supreme global enterprise will proceed,**

(regardless of whatever else is or is not happening on earth), **until the return of Christ!** (Matt. 24:14; 28:19-20)

THEREFORE, LET US AWAKE TO REALITY:

God's agenda, as unveiled in the New Testament, is NOT the continual building up of nor the perseveration of any earthly nation or kingdom, INCLUDING AMERICA— for they are all awaiting a judgment of fire: 2 Peter 3:9-14!

Our chief loyalty is to DIFFERENT NATION:

***"YOU ARE a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people [A people claimed by God for His own, comprised of 'Jew and Gentile']; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His marvelous light; ...*" (1 Peter 2:9-10)**

OUR PRESENT WORLD: THE WHOLE WORLD, INCLUDING AMERICA, LIES IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS... **AND, TRAGICALLY, IN THE MIDST OF AMERICA MULTITUDES OF CHRISTIANS ARE ALSO GOING WITH THE FLOW INTO DEEPENING DARKNESS.**

WHAT MUST BIBLE-BELIEVING, CHRIST-HONORING CHRISTIANS BE DOING? 1. Have we considered the POWERFUL, potential impact of JUST 10 RIGHTEOUS ONES? (Genesis 18:32) **WE SHOULD!**

2. WILL we receive and act upon the reality that the WORD OF JESUS to Christians is all **focused upon us** being/becoming righteous, holy, pure, loving, forgiving... and BOLD with the Gospel? (Revelation 2-3)

3. WE MUST MOVE FORWARD in serious CHRIST-LIKENESS! We must allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to PLOW DEEP!

"But we are more afraid of holiness today in the church than we are of sinfulness." (Leonard Ravenhill) "A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine."
(Dwight Moody)

SPIRITUAL MID-NIGHT IS ALL AROUND US— WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

FIRST, 2 Corinthians 13:5 reads: **"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

If I don't have a yearning in my heart to live a holy life, I need to question whether my faith in Christ is genuine.

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the following Scriptures and questions can lead us as Christians to **identify and confess sins which often grieve and quench the Holy Spirit.**

The Scriptures are set forth in the spirit of the cry of the Psalmist: **"Search me, O God and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting** (Psalm 139:23-24).

They are designed to lead us Christians to act upon 1 John 1:9: **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

MOREOVER, acting upon the following Scriptures and questions will help us obey the command: **"Be filled with the Holy Spirit"** (Eph. 5:8).

Biblically when I confess a sin or sins, I should mean this:

"My sin is wrong, against God, and got to go!" "O LORD, I was wrong... I repent... I THANK YOU, FOR FORGIVENESS, WHICH WAS WON AT CALVARY— THANK YOU JESUS!"

SUCH GODLY ACTIONS will give us a new song! We will freely tell others of Jesus! (Psalm 51:1-13) And we will be used to bring the lost to Christ! (Psalm 40:1-3)

1. Matthew 6:12, 14-15 - *"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ... for if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses."*

Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge? Anyone you haven't forgiven? Anyone you hate? Anyone you do not love? Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forget? Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well-spoken of? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?

2. Matthew 6:33 - *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness ..."* Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first? Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires rather than by seeking and following God's will? Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: Ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, or your own plans?

3. Mark 16:15 - *"... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Have you failed to witness consistently for the Lord Jesus Christ? Has your life failed to show the Lord Jesus to lost people? Have your lips been sealed and you have failed to give the Gospel to others?

4. John 13:35 - *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another? Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another? Are you guilty of any contention or strife? Do you quarrel, argue or engage in heated discussions? Are you a partaker in any division or party spirit? Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

5. Acts 20:35 - "**... ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.**" Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, and money?

6. 1 Cor. 4:2 - "**Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**" Are you irresponsible so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but doing nothing about it?

7. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - "**What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**" Are you in any way careless with your body? Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating? Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body?

8. 1 Cor. 10:31 - "**Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than give all the glory to God? Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done? Are your statements mainly about "I"? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something you are not?

9. Eph. 3:20 - "**... Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.**" Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting challenging goals in serving God?

10. Eph. 4:28 - "**Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth.**" Do you underpay? Do you do very little in your work? Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? Have you sought to evade payment of your debts? Do you waste time? Do you waste time for others?

11. Eph. 4:31 - *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice."*

Do you complain? Do you find fault? Do you have a critical attitude toward any person? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever harsh or unkind?

12. Eph. 5:16 - *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Do you watch/listen to unedifying radio, TV programs, videos, DVDs, movies, etc? Do you read unworthy magazines? Do you partake in worldly amusements? Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source? Are you doing certain things that indicate you are not satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ?

13. Eph. 5:20 - *"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word? Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of the facts of God's Word?

14. Phil. 1:21 - *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* Are you taken up with the cares of this life? Is your conversation primarily about "things" rather than the Lord and His word? Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?

15. Phil. 2:14 - *"Do all things without murmurings and disputings."* Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone? Do you gossip? Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present? Are you prejudiced against others because of their race, social status, or beliefs?

16. Phil. 4:4 - *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."* Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you complained against Him in any way? Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you? Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully? Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will? Have you disobeyed any direct leading from the Holy Spirit?

17. Col. 3:9 – ***“Lie not to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.”*** Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate? Cheat? Steal? Do you overcharge?

18. 11 Tim. 2:22 – ***“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, -- with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*** Do you have any personal habits that are not pure? Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind? Do you read that which is impure or suggests unholy things? Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment? Are you guilty of the lustful look?

19. Heb. 10:25 – ***“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ...”*** Do you whisper or think about other things while God's Word is being read or preached? Are you irregular in attendance at worship services?

NOTE: The time of our death is in God’s hands, not man’s!
(Rev. 1:18) There are many dangers in a fallen world:

[1] vehicle wrecks; [2] slipping and falling... could be anywhere;

[3] **you could be riding in a car down a street and a STRAY BULLET kill you... just like it did to Missionary Charles Wesco;**

[4] you could be walking down the street and a building fall on you (Luke 13:1-5); [5] you could be asleep in your home and a tornado send you into eternity— [6] **the LIST IS ENDLESS!**

[7] And there will be more and different... and maybe even worse VIRUS attacks and or other difficulties in the coming days!

WHAT’S THE POINT?

IF WE ARE RULED BY FEAR, WE WILL NEVER OBEY HEBREWS 10:25; NOR all the many ONE TO ANOTHER COMMANDS for Christians; nor the Great Commission!

WHETHER IT IS A NEW VIRUS OR INCREASING OPPOSITION TO BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY— these things are INCREASING! WHAT WILL WE DO? SHUT DOWN?

CEASE TO FUNCTION AS A BODY OF BELIEVERS— IN THE HOPE OF HAVING A FEW MORE DAYS OF EXISTANCE ON THIS EARTH? I COMMEND TO US ALL THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL:

1. Acts. 20:22-24 2. Acts 21:10-14

Sincere friends in Christ pled with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem... because, for sure, Paul would be arrested and turned over to the Gentiles!

PAUL SAID: “What mean you to weep and to break my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST!”

20. Heb. 13:17 - “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? Are you lazy? Do you rebel at requests to help in the work of the Lord? Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

21. James 1:27 - “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this ... to keep ... unspotted from the world.” Have you allowed yourself to become "spotted" by the world? Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything? Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy? Are your deeds displeasing to God?

22. James 4:6 - *"... God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble."* Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian? That you are not so bad? That you are good enough? Are you stubborn? Do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your "rights"?

23. James 4:11 - *"Speak not evil one of another, brethren, ..."* Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing His servants? Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor or other spiritual leaders? Do you find it hard to be corrected? Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you? Are you more concerned about what people will think than about what will be pleasing to God?

Conclusion: [GENUINE CONFESSION of sin, sins— They are wrong, against God, not the fault of anyone else, and they 'gotta go'] IF WE ARE honest in admitting, confessing, AND repenting of our sins— then let us REJOICE in God's forgiveness right now. RECEIVE and rest in His promise to forgive and remove your sins *"as far as the east is from the west"* (Psalm 103:12).

Remember: (1) Every sin is against God **so we confess** our sins to Him and make things right with Him. **(2)** If our sin is also against another person, we must make things right with that person. **(3)** If my sin is against a group, make it right with the group.

SAY to God, a business associate, a classmate, a member of your family, a fellow Christian, a Sunday School class, or anyone else against whom you have sinned, "I was wrong when I said or did _____ - Please forgive me!" PROPER RESPONSE: "Yes, I do forgive you!"

BOTTOM LINE: In a world of deepening darkness, I am not called upon the curse the darkness, debate the darkness, or to point my finger at others in darkness.

I AM CALLED UPON TO CONFESS AND REPENT OF MY OWN SIN; AND TO GO FORTH SERVING CHRIST IN HOLINESS AND LOVE! WE must walk in these paths! (Various sources used in developing this article)

MAY GRACE ABOUND! James Bell

NEWS NOTES:

1. Saturday, June 13, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: Studies in Titus.**

2. Sunday, June 14, * 9:30am** Sunday School: Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes scheduled.

3. Sunday, June 14, * 10:45am WORSHIP!** [WE HAVE ABUNDANT SPACE so that 6ft OR more DISTANCING can be EASILY MAINTAINED in the worship hour... if that remains your desire! AGAIN... our church family is at different places on all the 'pandemic' matters... but above all **we will continue to go forth respecting and supporting each other; and not judging one another.**]

4. SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 5:30PM— TRAINING FAITHFUL MEN! We are 'working our way through' the 1689 Confession of Faith!
This Sunday's study: CHRIST THE MEDIATOR!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm— ** Adult Prayer Service // 6:30pm— ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service

6:30pm— ** Youth Bible Study

5. NEXT Ladies Bible Study, June 23! (Prayer time, 10:30-10:45am) BIBLE STUDY @ 11am... studying Women of the Bible

6. FOR THOSE AT HOME: THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for June 7... **[SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

7. LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO:
Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066**

**OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @
<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**