

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

** October 31, 6:30-8:30pm— *REFORMATION DAY YOUTH EVENT!* A study on a REFORMER, this year, John Calvin. Activities. Snacks. Meet at church, rear entrance. ESPECIALLY for youth... others welcome!

LATER ON OCTOBER 31— 'FALL YOUR CLOCKS BACK' ONE HOUR!

Volume 45, No. 43, October 27, 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!"***

**OCTOBER 1-31, 2020— A MONTH of PRAYER and FASTING!
PRAYER—THE CHRISTIAN IS A LIFE-LONG, GENUINE
REPENTER!**

So long as we are in this life we will NOT have perfection; and while we are no longer under the DOMINION or rule of sin (Romans 6)— we still sometimes sin! **THEREFORE, we must NEVER REPENT of repenting!** We must continue to repent. We must, as Jim Elliff states, be **"Unrepenting Repenters!"** And, his article will demonstrate— that we must also BEWARE OF DEADLY, FAULTY REPENTANCE!

Let's be honest— WE [CHRISTIANS] ARE TOO SELDOM focused on REPENTING OF OUR OWN SINS! PRESENTLY many of us are troubled by the frightening, dangerous, unprecedented, and uncertain times in which we live. AND, our world is filled with BOLD MANIFESTATIONS of utter unrighteousness and ungodliness.

Thus, the TYPICAL CHRISTIAN CRY is one of being astounded at the wickedness of the heathen! AND WE WANT THEM TO REPENT; and so, we PRAY FOR AMERICA, etc. GOD MAY or may not grant America a little longer time of freedom and liberty, etc.

BUT HERE IS SHOCKING REALITY: Jesus calls His churches (Revelation 2 & 3) to REPENT! In His VERY SPECIFIC letters to His churches— **JESUS does not tell us:** “Gather the ‘big preachers’ of all stripes and denominations... and have a city-wide Prayer for revival.”

City-wide or just a local Church— **JESUS DOES NOT tell us** to gather and PRAY FOR REVIVAL IN THE LAND! RATHER, JESUS COMMANDS you and I ... and our local church family: **REPENT! Here is what I like; here is what I don’t like. REPENT! DO the right things!** (Revelation 2-3)

TOO OFTEN our gatherings for ‘Prayer for Revival’ are **deceptive and dangerous SUBSTITUTES** for the command Jesus has already given: *REMEMBER the height from which you have fallen! You have ABANDONED the first love you once had for Me! REPENT and DO the first works! [THUS, let us NEVER STOP being repenters!]*

The following article by Jim Elliff is Biblical and extremely helpful. It is printed without change of any of Bro. Jim’s article. We have used ‘color’ and ‘bold’ for emphasis.

THE UNREPENTING REPENTER! By Jim Elliff

The believer in Christ is a lifelong repentant. He begins with repentance and continues in repentance. (Rom. 8:12-13) David sinned giant sins but fell without a stone at the mere finger of the prophet because he was a repentant at heart (2 Sam. 12:7-13). Peter denied Christ three times but suffered three times the remorse until he repented with bitter tears (Mt. 26:75). Every Christian is called a repentant, but he must be a repenting repentant.

The Bible assumes the repentant nature of all true believers in its instruction on church discipline. A man unwilling to repent at the loving rebuke of the church can be considered nothing more than "a heathen and a tax collector." (Mt. 18:15-17)

What is repentance?

Repentance is a change of mind regarding sin and God, an inward turning from sin to God, which is known by its fruit— obedience. (Mt. 3:8; Acts 26:20; Lk. 13:5-9) It is hating what you once loved and loving what you once hated, exchanging irresistible sin for an irresistible Christ. The true repenter is cast on God. Faith is his only option. When he fully knows that sin utterly fails him, God takes him up. (Mt. 9:13b) He will have faith or he will have despair; conviction will either deliver him or devour him.

The religious man often deceives himself in his repentance. The believer may sin the worst of sins, it is true; but to remain in the love of sin, or to be comfortable in the atmosphere of sin, is a deadly sign, for only repenters inhabit heaven. The deceived repenter would be a worse sinner if he could, but society holds him back.

He can tolerate and even enjoy other worldly professing Christians and pastors well enough, but does not desire holy fellowship or the fervent warmth of holy worship. If he is intolerant of a worship service fifteen minutes "too long," how will he feel after fifteen million years into the eternal worship service of heaven? He aspires to a heaven of lighthearted ease and recreation—an extended vacation; but a heaven of holiness would be hell to such a man. Yet God is holy, and God is in heaven. He cannot be blamed for sending the unholy man to hell despite his most articulate profession (Heb. 12:14).

What are the Substitutes for true Repentance?

1. You may reform in the actions without repenting in the heart. (Ps. 51: 16-17; Joel 2:13) This is a great deception, for the love of sin remains. (1 Jn. 2:15-17; Acts 8:9-24) At this the Pharisees were experts. (Mk. 7:1-23) The heart of a man is his problem. A man may appear perfect in his actions but be damned for his heart. His actions are at best self-serving and hypocritical. What comes from a bad heart is never good. "Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." (Jas. 3:11-12)

2. You may experience the emotion of repentance without the effect of it. Here is a kind of amnesia. You see the awful specter of sin in the mirror and flinch out of horror yet immediately forget what kind of person you saw (Jas. 1:23-24). It is true, repentance includes sincere emotion, an affection for God and a disaffection for sin. Torrents of sorrow may flood the repenter's heart, and properly so (Jas. 4:8-10). But there is such a thing as a temporary emotion in the mere semblance of repentance; this emotion has very weak legs and cannot carry the behavior in the long walk of obedience. Your sorrow may even be prolonged. Yet if it does not arrive at repentance, it is of the world and is a living death—and maybe more (2 Cor. 7: 10). It is an old deceiver. Judas had such remorse but "went and hanged himself." (Mt. 27:3-5)

3. You may confess the words of a true repenter and never repent. (Mt. 21:28-32; 1 Jn. 2:4, 4:20) Confession by itself is not repentance. Confession moves the lips; repentance moves the heart. Naming an act as evil before God is not the same as leaving it. Though your confession may be honest and emotional, it is not enough unless it expresses a true change of heart. There are

those who confess only for the show of it, whose so-called repentance may be theatrical but not actual. If you express repentance to appear successful, you will not be successful at repenting. You will speak humbly but sin arrogantly. Saul gave the model confession (I Sam. 15:24-26) and later went to hell. Repentance "from the teeth out" is no repentance.

4. You may repent for the fear of reprisal alone and not for the hatred of sin. Any man will stop sinning when caught or relatively sure he will be, unless there is insufficient punishment or shame attached (I Tim. 1:8-11). When there are losses great enough to get his attention, he will reform. If this is the entire motive of his repentance, he has not repented at all. It is the work of law, but not grace. Men can be controlled by fear, but what is required is a change of heart. Achan admitted his sin after being caught but would not have otherwise. Find his bones in the valley of Achor; his soul, most likely, in hell. (Josh. 7:16-26)

5. You may talk against sin in public like a true repentor but never repent in private. (Mt. 23:1-3) The exercise of the mouth cannot change the heart. Your sin is like a prostitute. You are speaking against your lover in public but embracing her in the bedroom. She is not particular about being run down in public if she can have your full attention in private. "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" (Jas. 4:4)

6. You may repent primarily for temporal gains rather than the glory of God. There are gains for the repentor, but the final motivation for repenting cannot be selfish. Self is a dead, stinking carcass to be discarded. We are to repent because God is worthy and is our respected authority, even if we gain nothing.

Indeed, our repenting may appear to lose us more than our sin had gained. (Mt. 16:24-26; Phil. 3:7-8) And this is a test of true repentance.

7. You may repent of lesser sins for the purpose of avoiding the greater sins. (Lk. 11:42) We try to salve our nagging conscience by some minor exercise of repentance, which is really no repentance at all. The whole heart is changed in the believer. The half repenter is a divided man: part against sin and part for it; part against Christ, part for Him. But one or the other must win out, for man cannot serve God and mammon (or any other idol); he must love the one and hate the other. (Mt. 6:24)

8. You may repent so generally that you never repent of any specific sin at all. The man who repents in too great a generality is likely covering his sins. (Prov. 28:13) If there are no particular changes, there is no repenting. Sin has many heads, like the mythological Hydra. It cannot be dealt with in general, but its heads must be cut off one by one.

9. You may repent for the love of friends and religious leaders and not repent for the love of God. (Isa. 1: 10-17) A man talked into repentance may reform for the love of friends or the respect of the spiritually minded, yet do nothing substantial. If a man turns from sin without turning to God, he will find his sin has only changed its name and is hidden behind his pride. Now it will be harder to rout for its subterfuge. You have loved others but not God. And you have loved yourself most of all. Lot's wife left the city of sin at the insistence of an angel and for the love of her family, but turned back. She had left her heart. "Remember Lot's wife." (Gen. 19:12-26; Lk. 17:32)

10. 'You may confess the finished action of sin and not repent from the continuing habit of sin. If a man is honest, he is a good man in human terms; but he is not a repenting man until the sin is stabbed to death. He must be a murderer if he would be God's: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Rom. 8: 13) God knows what you have done; what He wants is obedience. (Lk. 6:46)

11. You may attempt repentance of your sin while consciously leaving open the door of its opportunity. A man who says "I repent" but will not leave the source or environment of that sin is suspect. Though some situations which invite temptation cannot be changed, most can. A man who will not flee the setting of his temptation when he is able still loves his sin. A mouse is foolish to build his nest under the cat's bed. "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." (Rom. 13:14)

12. You may make an effort to repent of some sins without repenting of all the sin you know. The businessman learns to show concern for the needs of his clients, yet he batters his wife through neglect. Another gives his money in the offering plate weekly but steals time from his employer daily. Every man boasts of some sins conquered, but true repentance is a repulsion of sin as a whole. The repenter hates all sin, though he fails more readily in some than in others. He may not know all his sins, but what he knows he spurns. Repentance is universal in the believer; the spirit is willing even when the flesh is weak (Mt. 26:41).

Repentance and faith are bound together. A repenting man has no hope for obedience without faith in the source of all holiness, God

Himself. In repenting of sins, he loses his self-sufficiency. God is his sanctifier. (Jude 24-25; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:5)

Repentance is a gift of God (Acts 11:19; 2 Tim. 2:25) and a duty of man (Acts 17:30; Lk. 13:3).

You will know if it has been granted by the exercise of it. (Phil. 2:12-13) Do not wait for it; run toward it. "Be zealous and repent." (Rev. 3:19) Pursue it and you will find it; forget it and perish.

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Grace to each one in Christ1

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NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: New Studies— *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!* (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!) [THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, PARK ACROSS THE STREET (Hawkins Ave), in the Guild Elementary School Parking Area]**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, November 10, 11:00am: Women of the Bible! [Hannah: 1 Samuel, chapter 1 & 2]**

SUNDAYS— NOVEMBER 1, 8, 16, 22, 29—

[October 31... before going to bed: FALL YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR!]

NOVEMBER 1, SUNDAY SERVICES: * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events: [NOTE NEW TIMES, in GREEN!]

1. November 1, Fellowship Meal, after morning worship service.

2. November 8, 5:00pm-6:30 pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

3. November 15, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

4. November 22, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... presently an important STUDY on PRAYER, using R.C. Sproul videos...

5. November 29, 5:00pm-6:00pm -FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD... AND a message from God's Word, Lukus Haskins.

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning

***** Adult Prayer Service Service***

***** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service***

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

ON NOVEMBER 4, 6:30pm— EVERYONE PLEASE MEET IN THE AUDITORIUM! Missionaries Tom and Linda Schreeder will be with us to give a missionary report!

IT IS VITAL FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY TO BE PRESENT!

***** HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

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; or 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. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

ADDED NOTE: In addition to carefulness, and good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

3. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING— No unsupervised Children!

FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service of November 1... GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org [You can also connect to our YouTube page for past messages & Bible Studies!]

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>