

**GROW  
IN  
GRACE  
NEWSLETTER**

**URL link to BIBLE READING PLANS for 2021—  
<https://www.ligonier.org/>**

Volume 46, No. 1, January 5, 2021 / 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!”***

**IN 2021— LET US BE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE, and ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD!**

Many are falling away into loving this present world and into deepening addictions to gross and enslaving sins. **AND MANY ARE LIVING (Existing!) in utter FEAR!** It is critical that the saints of God in Christ “... ***Be unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.***” (1 Cor. 15:58)

**I. WE MUST HAVE our hearts guided by God’s Word:**

**1. READ through the FOUR GOSPELS**, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), **where we are** privileged by the Holy Spirit to behold the LAMB OF GOD, to sit at His feet, to hear His voice, to marvel at Him, and to experience the Holy Spirit calling us to faith/obedience.

**2. READ The ACTS of the Apostles and** all the various letters by the Apostles unveil how the Holy Spirit wants us to **‘be the church’ and ‘do church ministry’** before a watching world.

**3. READ the EPISTLES for they reveal** glorious revelation as to our **position of being IN CHRIST, and they give training** as to spiritual warfare, **and provide** abundant revelation as to how to live so as to not bring shame to the name of Jesus, as well as practical ways to adorn the gospel by Christ-like living; **and provide** powerful warnings against FALSE PROPHETS; **and** clear calls to gladly suffer for righteousness sake.

**4. READ the REVELATION** which is the glorious unveiling of Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Lamb of God. The Revelation 'unveils' what Jesus Christ **is doing** at this present time; what He **will be doing** in days ahead and the reality of His ultimate intentions.

## **II. READ THE REVELATION and BEHOLD THE SOVEREIGN LAMB OF GOD:**

**1. REVELATION, chapters 1-19 — The Sovereign Lamb is in Heaven** working through His blood bought redeemed saints.

**2. REVELATION, chapters 4-19 — The Sovereign Lamb from heaven is** ruling and over ruling present and coming events on earth, including Kings and Kingdoms, Presidents, Dictators, and secret rulers even of this present hour. ***JESUS is moving them ALL toward that great and glorious day when He, the Lord Jesus Christ, will come back to this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!***

***[NOTICE that in the midst of all these events those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb often suffer the wrath of men and satan but never the wrath of God!]***

**3. REVELATION, chapters 20-22— The Sovereign Lamb is eternally enthroned and His holy Bride** (The Bride will be composed of the redeemed of all ages— Revelation 21:9-27) **His**

**Bride, His redeemed will be with Him in the New Earth and the New Heavens, for all eternity.**

**The supreme and ultimate goal of all history is a REDEEMED BRIDE for Jesus**, comprised of all those saved by God's amazing grace during all time periods of history from Genesis through the days of the Revelation. [Revelation 21:9-27 clearly reveals the oneness of ALL the redeemed as being the Bride of the Lamb for all eternity!]

### **III. MORE ABOUT THOSE REDEEMED BY CHRIST!**

**\*\*\* REVELATION, chapters 1-20**— ALL through the Revelation, **those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB!** [*They are called: God's elect, God's called out ones, those who follow the Lamb, those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*] **They are seen on earth**, moving through tribulations and martyrdom; **and they are seen IN HEAVEN... ruling, reigning, worshiping!**

**While on earth**, the redeemed are often the subject of man and satan's HATRED AND WRATH. They are often PRESENT when God pours out some expression of his wrath, even as was Noah during the flood and even as was Israel on the night of Passover.

**But although affected, they were never the subjects or objects of the wrath of God— not then, not now, not ever!** The Revelation has ESPECIALLY been given to encourage the true SAINTS OF GOD IN CHRIST who have always BEEN and WHO ALWAYS will be persecuted. Jesus said, ***“In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*** (John 16:33) The Revelation could well be called **Jesus' commentary on John 16:33.**

The Revelation is a GRAND reminder **that joy is not the absence of suffering but the presence of God and confidence in God** in the midst of the most trying of circumstances. **AGAIN**, the Christians who first read the Revelation were in a time of severe persecution with thousands being MARTYRED. And so it has been for 2000+ years of church history! The Revelation SHOUTS, "***Be thou faithful unto death; and I will give thee the crown of life!***"

**\*\*\* REVELATION, chapters 21-22—** AGAIN, OUR LORD'S REDEEMED ON EARTH become the complete BRIDE of the LAMB triumphant in Heaven, the Bride adorned for Her Heavenly Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. **The Revelation gives needed re-assurance that Jesus is SUPREME, SOVEREIGN, and SUFFICIENT. IT IS LIKELY THAT 2021 and beyond will be a time when we will especially need to be rooted and grounded in this truth!**

#### **IV. FOR 2021, WHAT IS YOUR BIBLE**

**READING/STUDY/MEDITATION PLAN? SUGGESTIONS:** For whatever else one may be reading from God's Word, I would encourage you to set aside some months and additionally read the following: **Read 5 PSALMS and one Chapter of the PROVERBS each day.** Some of you will likely receive this Newsletter on January 6, or 7, or 8. **Example, if you receive it on 1/8/21:**

**Example: On January 8—** read Psalm 8, 38, 68, 98, 128 and read Proverbs, chapter 8. In other words, whatever the day is, start with that Psalm and then add 30 each time... **as on January 8:** Read 8, 38, 68, 98, 128 and Proverbs 8. (You can make slight adaptations on months with different amounts of days.) **THE BENEFIT?**

\*\*\* **The Proverbs** are filled with practical wisdom on many of life's daily issues, temptations, etc.

\*\*\* **The Psalms** empower prayer and praise to God— **The persecuted New Testament church, as they prayed, set portions of Psalm 2 before the LORD: Acts 4:23-33!**

## **V. WHY HAVE A BIBLE READING/STUDY/MEDITATION PLAN?**

**We are all called to be Disciples and Disciple-makers. Helping each other to GROW as Disciples is a Work Achievable ONLY by the Word of God, quickened to us by the Holy Spirit. Growth in Christ-likeness happens as, (1) God's Word more and more saturates the lives of **Christians who are**; (2) Joining themselves together in **intercessory prayer** for each other **and who are**; (3) Yielding to and encouraging **accountability** so as to help each other to win spiritual battles and grow in the grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. (4) **The FRUIT will be that more and more**— we, our families and church will ADORN the gospel and not BLASPHEME the gospel before a watching world! Moreover, such growing in grace saints will also boldly proclaim the gospel!**

**EMBRACE this reality:** If you are a Christian, then, you are a BELIEVER PRIEST. You have within you the MASTER TEACHER, the Holy Spirit. Therefore, wholly embrace the need and call to be a WORKMAN: *"Study, give diligence, aim at winning God's approval, a WORKMAN with no reason to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. [Accurate in delivering the Message of the Truth; correctly analyzing, delivering the Message of the Truth.]"*

**MOREOVER, let us EMBRACE SOUND Preparation for good Bible Study!**

**WE MUST COME WITH PROPER HEART ATTITUDES! Let us Pray and**

proceed with Reverence, Expectancy, Dependency, Alertness, and a willingness to OBEY what God reveals!

**3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 over and again. WHY? So we will be reminded to submit to the very purpose for which God has given us each chapter of the Word of God! The Word of God is for,**

**a. DOCTRINE/TEACHING**— teaching us the Faith, teaching us the truth of both doctrines to believe and the true paths on which we are to walk.

**b. REPROOF/refuting error**— showing us where we got off the Straight and Narrow Way.

**c. CORRECTION/resetting**— showing us how to get back on the right path.

**d. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**— showing us how to stay on the right path.

**e. ALL FOR THE GOAL that we be completely prepared and equipped for all good work, to the glory of God! (2 Timothy 3:15-17)**

**f. ABOVE ALL: The Word of God has been given to us that we might KNOW and KNOW more intimately the GOD of the WORD! (Luke 24:44-48; Col. 3:16; Luke 16:29-31; John 14:21-25)**

**BOTTOM LINE:** When we open our Bibles to read a chapter from God's Word, the above points reveal, foundationally, what God will be up to in our lives! **Therefore: (1)** We must not merely read... **(2)** We must also prayerfully STUDY and search for accurate UNDERSTANDING of what the Bible is actually saying and/or

teaching... **(3)** We must be LISTENING for the Holy Spirit to QUICKEN personal applications of the Word of God to our lives.

## **DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN ON WHAT YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND!**

I deeply suspect that **in most EVERY chapter in the Word of God that there will be** at least SOMETHING that each and every one of us will SEE and UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY— **major on and apply those truths. We will understand more later!**

## **Here are Some Excellent Questions to Keep in Mind as We Read Scripture:**

1. Are there SINS I need to confess?
2. Are there PROMISES I need to claim?
3. Are there ATTITUDES I need to change?
4. Are there COMMANDS I need to obey?
5. Are there EXAMPLES I need to follow?
6. Are there PRAYERS I need to pray?
7. Are there ERRORS I need to avoid?
8. Are there TRUTHS I need to believe?
9. Are there PRAISES and THANKS to God I need to give?

**The point being that as I read the Word of God—** it is very likely that I will find teaching about Godly attitudes or commands or errors, etc. Moreover, as I read a chapter over, day after day— **the Holy Spirit will see to it that the Chapter births PRAYERS of confession, repentance, petitions, praise and worship!**

With this sort of prayerful and careful study of the Word of God— we will be gaining **INSIGHT**, we will be gaining **UNDERSTANDING**, we will be gaining **REVELATION** as to the will

of God in various situations. THEREFORE, it is important to have pen and paper... OR pen and notebook to jot down notes, insights, questions, applications and etc! Such will serve as handy reminders as we seek to further apply what God has revealed!

### **REMEMBER:**

- 1. Our goal is not only right interpretation.**
- 2. Our goal is also application and**
- 3. Life transformation MORE and more Christ-likeness!**

**OBJECTION: This is all too involved, too serious.**

**This will require too much time!**

### **THE DEEPER REALITY:**

- 1. The hour in which we are living is so late!**
- 2. The spiritual warzone is so deadly!**
- 3. MANY MEN, WOMEN and YOUTH are already FALLING by the WAYSIDE throughout the land!**

**The stakes are so high— that only a great fool would NOT approach personal Bible Study; and Bible Study with fellow saints in the coming year in a much more serious way than has EVER been our custom!**

**Grace to each one in Christ!**

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### **NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, JANUARY 12, 11:00am:**

**Women of the Bible!**

## **SUNDAY— JANUARY 10, 2021**

**\*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

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

### **Additional Sunday Events for January 2021:**

**1. January 10, 5:00pm-6:30 pm-** Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

**2. January 17, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.**

**4. January 24, 5:00pm-6:00pm-** Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... NEW STUDY... to be announced!

**5. January 31, 5:00pm-FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD; AND... a message from the Word, from Luke 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***

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

### **\*\*\* 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, VITIMIN 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 January 10... GO TO: [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://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>