



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 5, February 2, 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!”***

## **BASICS for SOUTHSIDE as a New Testament Church! Part 1**

The 1960 Pro-football season ended with Green Bay squandering the lead, to lose to the Philadelphia Eagles. Now, the Packers arrived in training camp to begin preparations for a brand-new season. They were filled with hope for the upcoming 1961 season. They were professionals. They would just need to play smarter... put in some new plays, etc. HOWEVER, COACH VINCE LOMBARDI had a different plan. He began the training camp, starting from scratch and holding up a football in his hand, he said:

**“GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A FOOTBALL!”**

David Marannis, in *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi*, wrote: Lombardi understood the importance of the fundamentals — not just of a sport, but in any endeavor.

We all have a tendency to be attracted to “shiny new things.” The 1961 Packers team members thought that the key to winning the championship would be found in new plays and game strategies — shiny new things. But Lombardi knew that if they didn’t have the fundamentals down pat that all the new things wouldn’t help them win a Super Bowl.”

**The above commonly accepted truth is even far more important in the life of a local church. THUS, THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FOR SOUTHSIDE, DOES NOT SET FORTH 'SHINY NEW THINGS' BUT IT sets forth** Biblical concepts which are important to a Biblical vision of Southside being and developing as a genuine expression of the Body of Christ in Gallatin and Sumner County, Tennessee. **Let us PRESS FORWARD in the following FUNDAMENTAL, Biblical paths!**

**1. The LORD JESUS CHRIST** is our only Head. We exist to worship Him, to make Him known and to do whatever He desires as He builds His church in His wisdom and power. He is the Head; we are a part of His body. He is to get all the glory. He is the source of our life. He is the decision-maker; whatever He says goes!

**The attraction in authentic Christianity is JESUS CHRIST** who came to earth as the visible image of the invisible Triune God. As we walk in His steps and manifest His life we make Him 'visible' to a watching world. JESUS CHRIST is the character-pattern against which everything we do is to be evaluated. **Let us develop a passion to grow in His likeness!**

**2. The Bible is our only infallible, without lies or error, blueprint for Church life.** Jesus is the living Truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. The Bible is the written, God-breathed truth. The Living Truth gives us the written Truth quickened by the Spirit of Truth so that we may know God and His will for our lives. The written Word of God is given that we might know the God of the Word and grow in intimate fellowship with Him. The Bible expresses the mind of God without error.

**The Bible is God-given and is our only authoritative rule of faith and practice.** The Bible is the supreme standard by which our conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. **Guidance from God will not conflict with the pure, written Word of God.** To claim to love JESUS CHRIST while rejecting His Word is a spirit of anti-Christ.

**3. Human traditions must bow to the Word of God.** The Word of God gives absolute truths and forms; but the Word of God also gives FREEDOMS. Whatever God has specifically laid down for us is absolute.

**Example:** It is a Biblical 'absolute' that we are not to 'forsake assembling together' with other believers. It is absolute that we are to engage in 'true church work' by carrying out the many 'ONE TO ANOTHERS' toward each other.

But we have FREEDOM as to meeting times as a congregation; and freedom as to precisely how to express the 'one anothers.' We are never permitted to do things that are in violation of God's Word.

**4. A COMMITMENT TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES:** A high view of the Bible is demonstrated when preaching and teaching is done under the presupposition that God has given to us a Bible with answers for life's questions and problems. This truth is the intent of the Holy Spirit's statement in 2 Peter 1:3, where we are clearly told that God has *"Granted to us everything pertaining to life and Godliness."*

**We must not substitute heart issues with psychological jargon (Matt. 15:19), or label sin as disease.** We must not turn to fables in a carnal attempt to obtain or keep folk's attention.

Attentiveness to the Word of God is a spiritual, heart decision and choice!

**The attractiveness of Jesus and His Word** comes by the blessed ministry of the Holy Spirit, not by a Hollywood movie clip in a sermon. The Psalmist declared the sufficiency of God's Wisdom when he said, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."* (Psalm 19:7)

**5. PREACHING & TEACHING the WORD OF GOD: Biblical preaching must not be** geared toward amusing the audience; nor geared toward any other fad that comes down the pike in our entertainment oriented age.

**Biblical preaching/teaching will**

*MAKE THE LOST WISE UNTO SALVATION;*

*TEACH* the faith;

*CORRECT* error;

*RESET* the direction of our lives; and

*TRAIN* us in righteous living. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

**Preaching and teaching** that is true to God's Word will equip us for every good work and supply all genuine needs! (2 Tim. 3:16-17) *"Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."* (1 Timothy 4:2)

**We live in an intense spiritual war zone. Yet, sadly,** many people seek churches who will ‘tickle their ears’. They have little or no interest in sound Biblical doctrine.

They want to keep their sin and be promised heaven. They love fables and religious entertainment. **BY THE GRACE OF GOD, at Southside, we continue to preach the pure Word of God!**

**6. A CLEAR GOSPEL MESSAGE:** The Gospel is the good news of Christ’s death for sinners, His burial and resurrection, according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Moreover, we embrace the Biblical truth that men and woman can reach Heaven only by grace and not through human merit of any kind.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** states, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

**Furthermore**, as Ephesians 2:10 demonstrates, true salvation is the work of God; and brings forth the fruit of good works. In other words, at Southside we constantly convey that salvation is— **by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, because of CHRIST alone, and UNTO good works!**

## **7. God’s Word gives us these GOALS:**

- (1) The **Glorification** of God!
- (2) The **Edification** of Believers/Saints!
- (3) The **Evangelization** of the world.

As these are kept in balance, God makes Himself known through Southsiders in truth, in holiness, and in love.

**Thus, the Kingdom of God on earth through Southsiders will be** visible in righteousness, in peace, and in joy in the Holy Spirit.

**8. When we gather, Southside is to be focused on carrying out ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES, such as—** Worship; Teaching; Mutual Ministries; The LORD'S SUPPER; Singing; Praying; Sending, Receiving, and praying for Missionaries; Carrying out discipline when needed; Praying for boldness to go back out into the world to live and proclaim the Gospel, etc.

**9. EVANGELISM and MISSIONS is the DAILY calling, task and privilege of ALL TRUE BELIEVERS!** God calls and empowers us to REACH OUT, to minister, and to serve people who are outside of Christ. A WITNESS for Jesus tells what they have seen, heard, and experienced. They tell it truthfully and thus by the enablement of the Holy Spirit they help others to arrive at an accurate conclusion about Jesus.

**Primarily, evangelism is done out in the world where lost people live and work. It is out in the world that the lost are to witness righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, faith, hope, and love flowing like a river from Southsiders!** Such powerful MODELING of Jesus Christ makes our tracts and gospel presentations believable!

**Biblical Evangelism includes both,**

**(1)** A call to the LOST to receive the Gospel of Christ and

**(2)** the specific training or discipling of those who do receive Christ, so that each new believer grows in Christ-likeness and becomes an effective soldier of Christ and disciple of others.

**MISSIONS:** A church obedient to Christ will have a solid emphasis upon LIVING and sharing the Gospel, beginning in its own community and extending to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Our Lord Jesus charged His disciples just prior to His ascension with these words, *"....and you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth."* (Acts 1:11)

We are to GO in person, we are to GO in prayer, and we are to GO with financial help to those SENT to the ends of the earth! **This is missions!**

**Two of the greatest hindrances to evangelism and missions today are unholy living and conflict in the churches and/or in homes.** At Southside, God continues to call us to holiness, purity, and love so as not to cancel the Gospel message we proclaim!

**10. Southside, as a local church, is a primary Missionary sending agency.** We are responsible under God to train, to recognize, and to send forth missionaries— following the pattern found in Acts 13. Those who are SENT FORTH to far-away places must have our prayers and financial support.

**BUT ALSO: We ourselves live on a 'foreign' mission field!** At the close of every Sunday's congregational meeting we must all go forth into our 'local' foreign field as freshly COMMISSIONED MISSIONARIES!

**11. 'LOVE' Offerings are given UNTO THE LORD to be used for His Kingdom work and ministry.** We are to first give OURSELVES. Our giving UNTO THE LORD is an expression of our STEWARDSHIP and of our GRATITUDE for God's grace in our lives.

**12. Every believer is a Minister, a Believer-Priest**, who has been graced and gifted by God so that we may lovingly labor to build up our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and labor to make Christ visible out in the world. The New Testament details and describes **the true church work of every believer**, as over 50 times the Holy Spirit calls us to minister the 'ONE ANOTHERS' to each other.

**I am honored to serve in your midst!**

Grace to all! James Bell /  
[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE 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, February 9, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

**SUNDAYS, February 7, 14, 21, 28**

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

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

## Additional Sunday Events for FEBRUARY 2021:

1. **February 7, Fellowship Meal, after morning worship service.**
2. **February 14, 5:00pm-6:30 pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.**
3. **February 21, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.**
4. **February 28, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... Dealing with Difficult Problems, videos by R.C. Sproul**

***TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... 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 31... 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>**