

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY! ... DOORS OPEN BY 7:30AM FOR Coffee, Juice, Donuts, and Sausage, etc. Biscuits! BIBLE STUDY FROM 8:00-9:00AM. HOPE TO SEE YOU!

**GROW
IN
GRACE
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 46, No. 21, May 25, 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!"***

JESUS is Clear About His Priority! Are We?

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.
(Matt. 18:11)

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

Would it not be safe to say that **we** as individual Christians and we as a Body of Believers should have a genuine and deepening concern for the lost masses of people all around us and to the ends of the earth?

BUT WHAT ABOUT all the fearful and bad things coming on earth or happening in America? Make no mistake— they are coming!

1. Matthew 24:1-13 has been, is and will be increasing reality! However, none of that hinders the ULTIMATE REALITY of what God has been doing, is doing and will do: ***"And this gospel of the kingdom SHALL BE PREACHED in ALL the world for a witness unto ALL nations; and then shall the end come."***
(Matthew 24:14) And...

2. Matthew 28:18-20— “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye** therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever ***I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***”

MOREOVER, Let us consider that,

“Unless God was mistaken in His own concern for people, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless God’s revelation of Himself in Christ was a meaningless gesture, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless Jesus Christ blundered when He birthed the New Testament Church and gave the Church the Great Commission, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the early Christians were only misguided zealots, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the early disciples misunderstood what Jesus told them to do, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless people are no longer lost, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless people are no longer in bondage to sin, self and satan, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless witnessing is only an exercise in futility, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the Holy Spirit no longer convicts the lost of their sin and doom, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the penalty for sin is no longer eternity in hell, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless man's sinful nature has been completely eradicated, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the Gospel of Christ is no longer the Good News of salvation, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ!

Unless the Gospel no longer the power of God unto salvation to those who believe regardless of their race, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless there is no longer 'joy in heaven' when even one sinner repents, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless the call of God to be 'co-laborers' with Him for the souls of men has been canceled, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless Christ coming back for His own has been canceled, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ.

Unless we have not personally experienced saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD, **WE MUST** reach out to people with the gospel of Christ. (Above statements are edited from John T. Sizemore... if I remember correctly!)

I am sure there are many more Bible based statements we could find to set forth; but just with the ones we have given— IS IT NOT OBVIOUS THAT WE MUST reach out to people with the gospel of Christ?!

BUT HOW? AND WHO?

As to 'who,' variations of the following statistics have been given many times. But every chart I have ever seen is fundamentally the same, with just a few differences in % points.

The following chart reveals ‘WHO’ IS MOST EFFECTIVE in reaching the lost with the Gospel... and/or of reaching those who simply need a church home!

Some years back Dr. Wynne Arn did a national survey, asking individuals of all walks of life, **“WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO UNITE WITH THE PARTICULAR CHURCH TO WHICH YOU ARE JOINED?”**

6% - 8%... Were ‘walk-ins’, usually from the same denomination.

2% - 3%... Because of various ‘ministries’ the church has.

3% - 4%... Special needs, such as a death or a marriage.

3% - 4%... Sunday School Outreach ministries.

1% - 2%... Visitation Ministries.

05%... A City-wide Crusade.

8% - 12%... Especially liked the pastor.

70% - 80%... → FRIENDS AND/OR RELATIVES!

1. If the same survey were to be done today, a few different categories would no doubt be factors: Music/Worship Styles. Seeker Friendly. Major Holiday Productions.

2. TRAGICALLY, you will note in all of this that few seem to be guided by TRUTH, by faithfulness to the pure Word of God; or by faithfulness to pure Gospel.

2. HOWEVER, SUCH A SURVEY would once again show that FRIENDS AND FAMILY have the greatest impact upon a family coming to Christ and/or choosing to visit and/or be a part of a congregation.

Have you not noticed just how much of life moves along lines of relationships?

It Was True in the New Testament Era:

1. **The ‘woman at the well’** went back to her home town and told them about her encounter with Jesus.
2. **Andrew** first found his brother.
3. **Cornelius** went to his family; and so it goes.
4. The gospel advances along lines of relationships! With Christ transformed lives and simple words of testimony **tell a friend about Jesus!**

Make a new friend and tell him/her about Jesus!

Tell a friend!

Make a new friend!

Tell a friend of God’s blessings in and through Christ and in and through Christ’s Body, a part of which, in Gallatin, would be Southsiders!

Make a friend and do the same!

ALL THE MASSES WHO NEED TO KNOW CHRIST— need to SEE JESUS in and through us!

They must witness love and forgiveness and purity and integrity and kindness and faith and hope! We must let our LIGHT SHINE so that they may see our good works and glorify our Heavenly Father!

We must exhibit conduct that ‘adorns the doctrine of God our Savior in all things!’ (Titus 2:10)

EARLIER we stated: IS IT NOT OBVIOUS THAT WE MUST reach out to people with the gospel of Christ?!

BUT HOW? AND WHO?

We have seen the “who”— It’s all of us; and especially by being a friend, telling a friend, making a friend!

This, by the way, will give the Sunday School Classes more people to minister to on a regular basis!}

BUT HOW SHALL WE REACH FOLKS WITH THE GOSPEL?

How?

We adorn the gospel by holiness, purity, righteousness, love, forgiveness, kindness, generosity, good works, peace, patience, self-control, faith, hope and joy in the Holy Spirit!

Such fragrance of Christ makes the WORDS OF THE GOSPEL come alive!

BY SUCH LIVING WE ‘LIFT UP JESUS!’

AND IF WE WILL ‘LIFT UP JESUS’—

HE WILL DRAW MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN OF EVERY RACE, TRIBE, AND CULTURE UNTO TO HIMSELF!

By the power of the compelling indwelling Holy Spirit, as we embrace and live the life JESUS has modeled before us and CALLS US TO—

OTHERS WILL ‘SEE!’ JESUS! And be drawn to Him.

And by the power of the compelling indwelling Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit filled Christians NATURALLY tell others about JESUS!

No one has to beg, bribe or threaten! Acts 2:41-47; 4:23-33; 8:1-4.

All true Christian Evangelism is the natural overflow of Christ-filled, Holy Spirit-filled lives!

It has nothing to do with personality, or with gifts. It is not stifled by shyness.

REALITY: The shy person DELIVERED from a great DISASTER will naturally TELL SOMEONE of his/her deliverance!

Bottom line reality:

There are two primary reasons why CHURCH FOLK NEVER TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS:

1. SOME have never been delivered from the sin, self, satan and the ULTIMATE DISASTER of the wrath of God! (They have to be humanly motivated to witness. And religionists are masters at programs of motivation!)

2. MANY are grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit, presently in a backslidden state.

THE CURE? — 2 Corinthians 5:11-16

1. BEHOLD GOD and tremble— “Knowing the terror of the LORD, we persuade men!”

2. Be freshly and personally astounded by the GOSPEL OF CHRIST—

The love of Christ CONSTRAINS, COMPELS US!

And just like the New Testament Church, as seen in the early chapters of Acts, we will have the,

(1) Power to ATTRACT— Acts 2:27

(2) Power to overcome— Acts 4:19-33

(3) Power to repel— Acts 5:9-14

AGAIN: HOW SHALL WE REACH FOLKS WITH THE GOSPEL?

We adorn the gospel by holiness, purity, righteousness, love, forgiveness, kindness, generosity, good works, peace, patience, self-control, faith, hope and joy in the Holy Spirit!

Such ‘fragrance’ of Christ makes the **WORDS OF THE GOSPEL** come alive! And such Spirit-filled living so overflows the Christian with the joy of **FORGIVENESS** and the reality of the fruit of the Spirit that they/we are inwardly motivated to tell others of Jesus!

This is God’s Priority! Is it mine? Is it ours?

GRACE TO ALL! / www.southsidegallatin.org / James Bell

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!*)

***** Ladies Bible Study— Taking a SUMMER BREAK! IN THE MEANTIME, take advantage of the recorded ones on our YOUTUBE page! (Go to www.southsidegallatin.org and CLICK on YouTube!**

SUNDAY SERVICES: May 30:

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

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

May 30, 5:00pm- FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide ** SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD; ** SCRIPTURE; and ** a message from the Word, Luke Haskins!

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

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all: NO UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING!

***** 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... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— give sensitivity and respect one to another.

NOTE: In addition to carefulness, 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.

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

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR MAY 30;

OR simply to connect with our YouTube page, for a variety of messages— GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by 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>