



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Some version of this particular Newsletter article has been preached, taught, and/or printed MANY times over many years. **Those who RECEIVED and APPLIED the truth of the Scriptures** set forth below have experienced great HEALINGS; they have made progress; they have THRIVED; they experience the JOY of the LORD; they forgive and love... like JESUS! **THOSE WHO REJECTED receiving and applying the following Scriptures, remained slaves** to resentments, bitterness, un-forgiveness, broken relationships, blame-shifting; and much more; and A CHRIST-LESS ETERNITY

AWAITS!

Volume 46, No. 27, July 6, 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: "Deny yourselves, take up your cross daily, and follow Me!" (Luke 9:23)

THE CALL OF GOD to salvation and the divine way of daily Christian living is **a call to come and die**; and it is **an infusion of divine life** so that we are RAISED to new life in Christ! THEREFORE, our new master passion is as the Apostle Paul's: ***"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

In genuine Christianity: **1. Christ was crucified in my place**— fully paying my sin debt! **2. I AM CRUCIFIED**— even as stated in Galatians 2:20 and in Galatians 5:24! **3. The world crucified to me and I to the world**— as stated in Galatians 6:14!

BUT WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN DAILY LIFE?

1. I DENY myself by saying "NO!" to what I feel I have a right to do, say, or think because of how you or someone else has treated me. **INSTEAD, AS A**

CHRISTIAN *I embrace my assignment— TO DO, SAY, and/or THINK WHAT JESUS TELLS ME and HAS MODELED BEFORE ME!*

THINK ABOUT IT: REGARDLESS of how JESUS WAS treated— He kept His focus on DOING HIS FATHER’S WILL. **Now, He lives within** EVERY genuine Christian, (by the reality of the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT), to do in and through us what He has always done— PLEASE GOD THE FATHER!

APPLICATION TO US, for example, in marriage: As a husband, my assignment is to LOVE MY WIFE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH. **Nothing my wife does or says EVER changes my assignment!** GOD NEVER gives me a ‘pass’ or an ‘excuse slip’ so as to remove me from the PRIVILEGE and responsibility of obeying my assignment as an act of WORSHIP to God— WHICH IS TO LOVE as He loves!

2. In other words, I take up my cross— I identify with Christ!, by my willingness to WALK IN THE STEPS OF JESUS, laying down my life for others for JESUS SAKE— even for... ESPECIALLY **for the unworthy, the unloving, and the unresponsive!**

THUS, in simplicity and in MIRACLE STEPS— I follow JESUS! I do not follow the world. I do not follow my feelings. I do not follow what others say. I FOLLOW JESUS!

Again, I am to walk in the steps of Jesus who laid down His life for **the unworthy, the unloving, and the unresponsive**— empowered and motivated by the indwelling compelling HOLY SPIRIT! **No, I do not have perfection in this walk— but I am daily ON THE WAY!**

And if I fall down— I will not blame anything or anyone! I will repent, rest in and rejoice in His continuing forgiveness; and get up and go forward in faith. SUCH IS THE PATH AND POWER OF GENUINE CHRISTIANITY! NOW, WITH THIS BACKGROUND... Here is Bible-based truth to help us with RELATIONSHIPS with others. **All human relationships operate in a ‘triangle’ fashion!**

 **That is, all relationships have 3 sides— we have rights, expectations, and responsibilities.** Sometimes rights and expectations may overlap. Sometimes rights and expectations are based on what is good, honorable, and Biblical. On the other hand, they can be based on tradition, on how I was raised, or even upon selfishness, etc.

REALITY: About 99.999999% of all ANGER in relationships is in direct proportion to the fact that someone has VIOLATED or neglected our rights and/or expectations— OR at least we believe that they have... OR... they believe that we have violated their rights and/or expectations! **THUS, MOST fussin' feudin', fightin', resentments, bitterness, and etc. — are about UNMET rights and expectations!**

In such settings every time someone dishes out an accusation of real or imagined unmet needs, rights, and expectations— usually the only thing accomplished is that the other party now has more ammunition! THIS BATTLE OF OPPOSING ACCUSATIONS will provide enough ammo to shoot against one another until hell freezes!

COMMON to these tragic wars are the battle tactics of (1) Defending self and accusing others; **(2)** Blame-shifting and putting up smoke-screens; **(3)** Confessing the real or imagined sins/faults of the other person *instead of obeying Scripture and only confessing OUR OWN faults!* (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9); **and (4)** **Gathering an army of supporters to promote 'our side'**— thus, it is no wonder that 'emotional blood and guts' lie everywhere!

CRITICAL ALERT: The longer these sin-filled, satan-pleasing tactics are used there will be growing hardness of heart, resentments, bitterness, hopelessness; destruction of families, destruction of churches, and above all a deepening REJECTION of Jesus Christ! **When we are fighting with such tactics— No one is focused on heeding their God-given responsibilities and ASSIGNMENTS!**

Moreover we feel fully justified for not carrying out our God-given responsibilities— for, after all, 'the other person' - (spouse, fellow church member, relative, neighbor, or whoever) - is not carrying out theirs!

THUS, MANY CONCLUDE: “He/she/they are not meeting MY needs. He/she/they are not loving me the way I NEED to be loved. IN FACT, he/she/they are being down-right evil toward me. I have it all documented! **Therefore, I AM EXCUSED from my God-given responsibilities!** He/she/they need counseling— I don’t... except to share how he/she/they have deeply wounded me! Of course, I am not perfect; but he/she/they are the ones with serious problems— not me!” YES, from time to time, others in our world do and say bad things and those bad things can wound and HURT. Legitimate rights and expectations are not met.

AND SO, ‘WARS’ escalate. Love and hope dies. Divorce follows... or church splits... or worse— ALL BECAUSE OF HOW WE MIS-HANDLE RIGHTS, EXPECTATIONS, and RESPONSIBILITY!

[BUT WE MUST REMEMBER that nothing nor no one excuses us from our own God-given responsibilities!]

GOOD NEWS: JESUS MODELS THE WAY OF JOY!!

1. JESUS had far worse and more BAD THINGS done to Him than we have had done to us! **2.** Unlike us, JESUS did not deserve any of them! **3.** Yet, Jesus was not destroyed by such evil. His hope never died! His JOY was never killed! **4.** JESUS was not EVER sidetracked from His God given RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHAT WAS JESUS’ SECRET?

***** JESUS YIELDED HIS RIGHTS!** Through His life, death, and resurrection, **Jesus Christ gives us a striking example of complete obedience and surrender to God.** In the Book of Philippians, we read that although Jesus was equal with God, He humbled Himself to live among men and to redeem them from the bondage of sin. In order to fulfill the direction of God the Father, **Jesus yielded His right** to wealth, to a good reputation, to be served, to enjoy physical comforts, and to make His own decisions. **MOREOVER, the evil that was dumped on Jesus was unspeakable— yet He never took His eyes off His responsibilities!**

Christ’s ultimate humiliation came when He was arrested, falsely accused, and crucified— *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that*

hangeth on a tree” (Galatians 3:13). **Regardless of the cost**, Jesus lived on earth to please His Father. He did not come to be served. He did not come to demand His rights. He did not react in anger when He was violated. He stayed focused on doing His Father’s will. **THUS, HE WAS ANOINTED WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE ALL OTHERS—**

DEMONSTRATING that Joy and Happiness are not dependent upon Others Treating us Right! WE MUST FULLY EMBRACE THE FOLLOWING CLEAR WORDS FROM GOD:

1 Peter 2:19-21: “For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. **For what credit *is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?* But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:...” (NKJV)**

1 Peter 4:12-16: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **but rejoice** to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, **blessed are you**, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” (NKJV)

1 Peter 3:1-4: “... even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives. Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. **You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.**” (NLB)

STRONG REALITY: I may or may not have grief and sorrow from the wrong of others toward me— but those are ‘clean wounds’... and they will heal as I walk with Jesus.

THE ONLY THING that destroys me and weighs me down with UNHAPPINESS and HOPELESSNESS is my own response of REFUSING my God-given responsibilities and replacing them with defensiveness and accusations— thus, creating self-inflicted dirty, infected wounds which breed resentment, bitterness, and hardness of heart.

*****JESUS YIELDED HIS RIGHT TO BE SERVED!**

As the Creator of every living person, Christ has the right to have others serve Him. However, when Jesus came to earth, He did not demand the service of others. Instead, **He took opportunities to demonstrate humble service:** He healed the diseased, delivered those possessed with evil spirits, restored the disabled, provided food for the hungry, and more.

On the evening of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, He washed the feet of His disciples, who were shocked by His actions. **Jesus said to them... and to us...**

*“ . . . He said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. **For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.** Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them**”* (John 13:12-17).

Happiness is not in having my rights and expectations met!
Happiness is in serving UNWORTHY others because we want to please Jesus, in gratitude for all JESUS has done for us!

The attitudes and actions of ‘others’ may or may not deserve that we serve them— however, **JESUS ALWAYS DESERVES that we heed his Word and walk in His SERVING footsteps!**

Dr. Ed Wheat, author of *LOVE LIFE FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE* reveals that at the beginning of his Christian life his wife and children were unresponsive to both the gospel and to him. **He states that, “prolonged rejection... drove me to the Word of God to learn exactly what I should do. I learned that it was my responsibility to love my wife the way Christ loved me. Many times I did not feel like loving her, for rejection, even quiet, courteous rejection is hard to handle. BUT I DID IT OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD!** I found that as I put the principles of the Bible into practice and as I really learned how to love my wife, **this became PLEASURE as well as responsibility. OBEDIENCE TOOK ON THE BRIGHT COLORS OF JOY!”**

***** JESUS YIELDED HIS RIGHT TO PHYSICAL COMFORTS!**

Jesus met the demands of a heavy daily schedule by practicing personal disciplines. His lifestyle of traveling, teaching, and ministering to the needs of people along the way did not include many of life’s basic comforts. When a man told Christ that he wanted to become His disciple, Jesus warned him, *“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”* (Matthew 8:20). The Gospel of Mark records **the strenuous schedule of a typical day in Jesus’ public ministry.** (Mark 1:32–35).

***** JESUS YIELDED HIS RIGHT TO MAKE HIS OWN**

DECISIONS! Perhaps the most difficult right to yield is that of making final decisions. **Yet, if we do not fully yield this right to God, we will not develop a spirit of meekness or walk in true humility before God. Jesus lived in complete surrender to God’s direction.** When Christ was twelve years old, He understood His calling and expressed His desire to be about His heavenly Father’s business. (Luke 2:49.)

He yielded to God’s direction through His IMPERFECT parents and waited until He was thirty years old to begin His public ministry. (Luke 3:22–23.) During His ministry years, Jesus made no decisions independently but did only what His heavenly Father directed Him to do. (John 8:28.) Continually, His attitude was **“not my will, but Thine be done”** (Luke 22:42). When Christ was arrested and placed under civil authorities, God carried out His ultimate will through their decisions. (John 19:11, 28–30.)

Jesus' obedience to the directions of His Father enabled Jesus to complete the work He was called to do and to fulfill the Scriptural prophecies about His life. (Philippians 2:9-11). **Jesus gave two specific words as to the disposition/attitude He maintained while on earth— MEEKNESS and LOWLINESS of heart!** Every step of the way as He YIELDED HIS RIGHTS, He was revealing **meekness and lowliness**.

Being channels for MEEKNESS and LOWLINESS is the grand and open secret of happiness and peace in relationships!

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

MEEKNESS: I yield all of my personal rights and expectations to God, SO THAT I am ‘clay in His hands’ for Him to accomplish His will in my life!

THUS, CONFESS: “JESUS, like Dr. Ed Wheat, I totally embrace my God-given responsibilities to do them as an act of worship to you, regardless of what others in my life may or may not be doing, leaving all results in your hand. LORD JESUS, you are worthy that I serve and worship you in this manner!”

BOTTOM LINE: I am not an owner. I am a steward. I belong to God by right of Him being my Creator and REDEEMER. I am BOUGHT with a price. **I belong to JESUS. JESUS has exclusive right to manifest HIMSELF in and through me for His glory! Any attitude, word or deed which does not manifest CHRIST and please Christ— I REJECT! I DIE to my supposed ‘rights’ and I EMBRACE my God-give responsibilities/ASSIGNMENTS— REGARDLESS of what others... or my spouse are doing!!** [Various sources used in developing this article]

Great Grace to All! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: *NEW STUDY: THE BOOK OF JOB!*** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!*)

***** Ladies Bible Study— Taking a SUMMER BREAK! IN THE MEANTIME—** Go to www.southsidegallatin.org and **CLICK** on YouTube!

SUNDAY SERVICES: July 11, 18, 25:

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

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

Additional Sunday Events for JULY 2021

1. JULY 11, 5:00pm CHURCH-WIDE MEETING in the Auditorium... **A MISISONARY REPORT FROM Lary and Cheryl Strietzel, Aviation Mission Fellowship, serving in Africa....** Snack fellowship time afterwards at 6pm

2. JULY 18, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and **HOME GROUPS,** in the evening.

3. JULY 25, 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium! (These 4th Sunday evenings will be prayerfully patterned like the 5th Sundays have been: A variety of singing/praise... FOLLOWED BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD.)

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 back ‘double doors’ under the Drive Thru awning!

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

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR JULY 11,

(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>

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