



PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 36, September 13, 2022** / 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!”***

THE BIBLE — Does God’s Word Matter?

Adam and Eve faced a dilemma. **God had clearly said** to them ***“You shall surely die”*** if they were to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). **On the other hand, the Serpent** said the opposite to them: ***“You will not surely die”*** (Gen. 3:4). *Instead of heeding God’s revelation, Eve decided to investigate things further herself:* “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes ... she took of its fruit and ate” (3:6).

Make no mistake, the fall was not just a matter of Adam and Eve eating the fruit. At its core, the fall was about Adam and Eve rejecting God’s Word as THE ultimate AND only standard for all of life!

A. A. Hodge states, “That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, **and is to be interpreted, in its own light, and with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost**, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27) ... Creeds and confessions, ... **bind only so far as they affirm truly what the Bible teaches, and because the Bible does so teach.**”

Charles Hodge, wrote: "...The Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is **the only infallible rule of faith and practice.**"

These men and others rejoice in that which the Holy Spirit gave the Apostle Paul: ***"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*** (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Lorraine Boettner wisely states: "The answer that we are to give to the question, *"What is Christianity?"* depends quite largely on the view we take of Scripture:

***** If we believe that the Bible** is the very Word of God and infallible, we will develop one conception of Christianity.

***** If we believe that it [the Bible] is only a collection of human writings**, perhaps considerably above the average in its spiritual and moral teachings but nevertheless containing many errors, we will develop a radically different conception of Christianity, if, indeed, what we then have can legitimately be called Christianity. Hence we can hardly over-estimate the importance of a correct doctrine concerning the inspiration of the Scriptures."

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, (the true church and NOT the harlot), does not add to or take from the rule of God-breathed Scripture.

NOTE:

Cults, Harlot Churches, and any others who value their opinions over the pure revealed Word of God— ADD to and/or deny or subtract from and place themselves and/or their leaders OVER the Word of God.

Examples of such: Mormonism, Catholicism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and a growing number of Evangelicals, Baptists, Charismatics, etc.

“What arguments do the Scriptures themselves afford in favor of the doctrine that they are the only infallible rule of faith?”

1st. The Scriptures always speak in the name of God, and command faith and obedience!

2nd. Christ and his apostles always refer to the written Scriptures, then existing, as authority, and to no other rule of faith whatsoever! — Luke 16:29; 10:26; John 5:39; Rom. 4:3; 2 Tim. 3:15.

3rd. The Bereans are commended for bringing all questions, even apostolic teaching, to the test of Scripture! — Acts 17:11

4th. Christ rebuked the Pharisees for adding to and perverting the Scriptures! — Matt. 15:7-9; Mark 7:5-8; see also Rev. 22:18, 19, and Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Josh. 1:7.” (A. A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology, chapter 5, 1860*)

Does God give us the liberty to substitute our well-intended human ideas in place of Scripture’s divine revelation?

The answer is, NO!

DANGER: THE FOLLOWING OFTEN HAPPENS... and RARE is anyone concerned— In Bible studies and even sermons, those speaking and/or those responding WILL MAKE comments like this: **“People often disagree on this passage or Bible subject— HERE IS WHAT I THINK! ... Here is what I believe! ... Here is what it**

means to me!” SO, WE ARE OFTEN LEFT with MERE OPINIONS!

INSTEAD, WE NEED to have a godly passion for: “WHAT DO THE VERSES or VERSE ACTUALLY SAY!?”

ANOTHER DANGER: More than we like to admit, we reserve for ourselves the right to determine what is and is not acceptable in worship and practice.

IF WE practice something AND IF WE don't see any harm or wrong in it— that settles it! It's our decision! THEREFORE, FEW WANT TO KNOW: “WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD REVEAL ABOUT THIS MATTER!?” MANY believe that **if we** are pleased with something **and if we** are sincerely doing it as worship to God— therefore God must be pleased, even though it is contrary to what He has revealed or commanded.

MOREOVER, we have a natural dislike for God's absolute authority. THUS, we are easy prey for deceptions, even as was Eve. We easily fall in love with our ideas, even as Cain; and even as Israel with their golden calf. **SADLY, it seems that many pastors today** take their cue from Aaron, *the great pragmatic facilitator*, who apparently believed that his calling was to please the congregation MORE than to obey God! (Ex 32:1-6)

EXAMPLES:

***** Every spring we have** a great host of the world's most respected preachers, (with Bibles in hand), preaching about EASTER, which has nothing to do with Jesus or His death, burial, and resurrection! MOST of these preachers know better; but choose to bow to culture rather than to the CLEAR Word of God.

*** **Others disregard** the clear Word of God that only qualified men may serve as elders or deacons; thus, some churches are ordaining women pastors and even sodomite pastors.

*** **More than a few** Baptist pastors, deacons, and others are members of the anti-christ, masonic lodge religion.

*** **Many pay little attention to** the Words of Jesus as to the sacredness of marriage.

*** **Every December, masses** in the churches, led by pastors, MAGNIFY and are loyal to the traditions of men rather than they are to following New Testament example of simply and profoundly rejoicing in the SAVIOR WHO IS GOD WITH US, WHO CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN.

*** **FEW HUSBANDS/WIVES** ARE STUDENTS of the Word of God so as to model the love of Christ in families and so as to TRAIN UP children in Biblical instruction and discipline.

*** **INCREASINGLY RARE are the church members** who pay close attention to Biblical revelation as to loyalty to Christ expressed by being loyalty to HIS BODY to which we say we are joined.

*** **FEW REVEAL commitment and vision of our MISSIONARY CALLING** to be salt and light in a dark world, to be careful to ADORN the gospel, and careful not to cause the name of Christ to be BLASPHEMED.

IN OTHER WORDS, SADLY,

*** **WE GIVE 'LIP SERVICE'** to the Word of God; but way too little actual commitment to HEEDING the Word of God!

BUT ALL OF THIS AND MUCH MORE IS, 'OK' because, it's what we believe and practice; and so regardless of what the Bible

actually teaches— HE MUST BE PLEASED with us; because WE CERTAINLY ARE PLEASED WITH OURSELVES!

Moreover, we believe that we accomplish much good by our traditions, for example, as we **set forth** our statistics of how many we say we got saved at an Easter egg hunt, etc. — that settles it. End of story. We are right and it is indeed our decision to do things our way. **Besides, we prayed about it;** and many will proclaim, “The Lord led us!”

BUT LET US REMEMBER: *“Instead of looking to God’s revelation, Eve decided to investigate things further herself: “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes ... she took of its fruit and ate” (3:6).*

Make no mistake, the fall was not just a matter of Adam and Eve eating the fruit. At its core, the fall was about rejecting God’s Word as the ultimate standard for all of life.

SERIOUS QUESTIONS:

***** 1. IF Bible truth is expendable in one area— what about in other areas as well? *** 2. IF** the Bible is not our infallible guide and rule for doctrine and practice in one area— maybe it should not be in other areas as well! ***** 3. IF we and our traditions** get to decide what is and is not acceptable doctrine and practice— is anything not left subject to us? ***** 4. IF our beloved and ‘successful’ traditions** are embraced instead of obedience to the Word of God— isn’t that making our will sovereign over God’s will?

BOTTOM LINE:

This article is about our/MY attitude toward the Word of God!

It's about whether or not we will be guided solely by the Word of God, quickened by the AUTHOR OF THAT WORD, THE HOLY SPIRIT...

OR,

Will we guided by the Word of God, UNLESS we and our traditions are different from the revealed Word of God?

BUT WHO CARES ABOUT ANY OF THIS?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

1. IT DOES NOT MATTER AT ALL— IF THE BIBLE IS NOT the God-ordained SOLE RULE OF FAITH! BUT IF 'SOLA SCRIPTURA' is true— then we must line up with Scripture.

2. DARE WE take these words of JESUS seriously? MARK 7:6-9— “... [IN] vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men... Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.”**

[The following is from “16 TESTS of an AUTHENTIC NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH!”]

CONCEPT TWO: THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY INFALLIBLE (WITHOUT LIES OR ERRORS) BLUEPRINT FOR CHURCH LIFE. IT TELLS US ACCURATELY WHAT WE NEED TO BELIEVE AND HOW WE CAN FOLLOW CHRIST'S DIRECTIONS.

1. **THE BIBLE** IS THE AUTHORITATIVE “TRADITION” WHICH WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED BOTH TO LEARN AND TO KEEP, A REVELATION WHICH IS BINDING IN ITS TRUTH AND ENDURING IN ITS PRACTICALITY. (“Hold to the traditions which you were taught whether by word of mouth or by letter from us” II Thess. 2:15/ “The scripture cannot be broken” Jn. 10:35/Rev. 1:3)
2. **THE BIBLE** EXPRESSES GOD’S MIND INERRANTLY SO THAT IT LEADS US TOWARD PERSONAL MATURITY AND USEFULNESS (II Tim. 3:16, 17/Rom. 15:4/Ps. 119:105/I Pet. 2:2/II Cor. 3:18).
3. **IT IS THROUGH THE BIBLE** THAT WE LEARN ABOUT CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (Lk. 24:27,44,45/Jn. 5:39/Eph. 1:17)
4. **SINCE THE BIBLE IS** A UNIQUE BLUEPRINT, THEN THIS CALLS FOR DILIGENT STUDY OF IT BY EVERY PERSON IN THE CHURCH; AS WELL AS CORRECT INTERPRETATION, SO THAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND CHRIST’S DIRECTIONS ACCURATELY. (II Tim. 2:15/Acts 17:11/I Cor. 2:1/Eph. 1:17).
5. **WE ARE COMMANDED TO ACT ON THE WORD, NOT JUST HEAR IT** (James 1:22/4:17/Jn. 13:17/Mt. 28:20/Lk. 6:46/11L28/Rom. 2:13/Phil. 4:9/I Jn. 2:3).

THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING (OF THOSE GATHERED FOR THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH) INVOLVED A DIRECT AND UNANIMOUS RESPONSE TO THE COMMANDS OF SCRIPTURE (Acts 1:20-22). This is church government at its best— with full unity because all have committed themselves to doing things GOD’S way as shown in His Word!”

Abundant Grace to one and all! James Bell
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: SEPTEMBER 18, 25 / 2022

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

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

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. **9/18/22 ... AFTER the MORNING service: THE LORD'S TABLE**

2. **9/25/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM.** (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **ADAM TROUTT** scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)
[STUDYING IN JEREMIAH]

*** **NEXT Ladies Bible Study, SEPTEMBER 27, @ 11:00 AM**

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]

*** **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... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN—

SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are 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!

[A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to ‘social distancing’... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** [COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>