

**SATURDAYS\*\*\* 8:00 AM, — Men’s Bible Study!** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)  
**STARTING ON 11/26 and for 5 or 6 weeks... (we take a break from JEREMIAH STUDIES) STARTING THIS SATURDAY: BIBLICAL REVELATION ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!**

**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. 46, November 21, 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!”***

**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**THANKS in a world of SUFFERING & EVIL!**

**THERE IS UNSPEAKABLE PAIN, SUFFERING, and EVIL in our world! Thus,**

human reasoning says that **(1) IF GOD IS** all knowing, and all-loving, and perfectly good— He must **WANT** to stop the suffering and evil of this world. **(2) And IF GOD IS** really sovereign and all powerful— He must be **FULLY ABLE** to stop suffering and evil. **(3) PROBLEM: SUFFERING and EVIL continues... and grows! (4) THUS,** a number of theologians, pastors, and others are openly asking— **“What kind of a god would allow all of this?”**

**INDEED,** Baptist Pastor Gregory Boyd, in his book ***GOD OF THE POSSIBLE*** asks,

*“... If God foreknew that Adolph Hitler would send six million Jews to their death, why did He go ahead and create a man like that? How is God not responsible for the behavior of evil people He “unleashes” on the world— if, in fact, He is absolutely certain of what they will do once “unleashed”? Moreover, if God is eternally certain that various individuals will end up being eternally damned, why does He go ahead and create them? If hell is worse than never being born, as Jesus suggests (Matt. 26:24), wouldn’t an all-loving God refrain from creating people He is certain will end up there?”*

**YES, more and more people are concluding that, (1)** God must not be all loving and all good! **(2)** Or if God is all loving, God must not be all powerful! He means well. He would like to deliver the world from pain, suffering, and evil— but He is just not able to pull it off! **(3)** Besides, there are lots of events that **God simply does not know about until they happen!** God is, as Gregory Boyd clearly implies, merely “*The God of the POSSIBLE*” who may or may not be able to carry out His will!

The Nashville Tennessean, November 26, 2000, stated that Jewish Rabbi Harold Kushner, (in ***When Bad Things Happen to Good People***), “made the case that God is **all-loving but not always all powerful** to stop suffering.” TRAGICALLY, Kushner’s book has been strongly embraced by many ‘Christian’ pastors. Kushner’s book has helped change the way religious professionals approach the subject of grief and suffering!” **[Like me, I hope you can’t swallow Kushner’s or Boyd’s humanistic views!]**

**BUT LET’S BE HONEST— when life tumbles in with pain and suffering is it not true that many of us quickly question the goodness, love, wisdom, power, and/or the good sovereignty of God?**

Moreover, like Gregory Boyd and others, it is a sad fact that many of us tend to forget, deny, minimize, and/or refuse to receive and apply BIBLICAL REVELATION! SO, LET US RUN TO THE SURE WORD OF GOD:

**FIRST, GOD DOES INDEED HAVE ALL POWER AND HE ACCOMPLISHES ALL OF HIS GOOD PLEASURE!** God is not wringing his hands in fear or frustration that He IS NOT or will not be able to accomplish all of His good and perfect pleasure.

**We may not presently understand how these things can be; but here's critical truth about the true and living God:**

**\*\* Psalm 103:19-**The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. **\*\* Psalm 115:3-** But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. **\*\* Psalm 135:6-** Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places. **\*\* Proverbs 19:21-** There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD that shall stand. **\*\* Proverbs 21:1-** The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever he will. **\*\* Isaiah 43:13-** Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it? **\*\* Lamentations 3:37-** Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

**\*\* Daniel 2:20-21-** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: **\*\* Daniel 4:17-** .... to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. **\*\* Daniel 4:35-** And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?

**2. PAIN, SUFFERING, and evil have to be studied IN PROPER CONTEXT:** Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2 & 3) **As a result of that**

**rebellion and choice to sin, we all must face multiple realities of pain, suffering, and evil!**

**3.** In a fallen world **the entire creation suffers and groans:** Romans 8:20-22! Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Drought, '911', atrocities of war, disease, and more **are all repercussions of man's rebellion; and they 'touch' both saint and sinner!**

**4.** From the Beginning, God revealed to Adam and Eve that they were RESPONSIBLE BEINGS who would face repercussions for disobedience: Genesis 2: 16-17. After their sin, God said: Gen. 3:16-19.

**5.** In our fallen world we witness the AWFUL DEPTHS of man's depravity. And the Bible speaks plainly about the WICKEDNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART. (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18)

**6.** In our fallen world, God has decreed SOWING and REAPING—SIN PAYS WAGES! (Gal. 6:7-8) We suffer for our own sin. **We suffer consequences from the sins of others, such as—** the drunk, the Child abuser, the Evil Politician, the specter of Terrorism, etc!

In reality, the SORROW, SUFFERING, and EVIL of our world point the FINGER of guilt at us and not at any sort of supposed mismanagement, powerlessness, or lovelessness on the part of Almighty God! **When we experience or witness some of the HORRORS of this world, WE SHOULD BE CRYING OUT:** *"Look at the consequences of sin and rebellion. Look at the awesome evil potential of my own heart! Thus, "O sinner flee to Christ before it is everlastingly too late!" And, "O Christian, be amazed at grace that saved a wicked sinner like me who only deserved eternity in hell!"*

**REMEMBER THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOB: (1) God initiated** the conversation with satan about Job. **(2)** Job rightly proclaimed: “God gave. God took away. Blessed be God!” **(3)** God used satan to accomplish God’s purposes. **(4)** JOB and his friends ‘go at it’ in deep and often confusing philosophical and theological discussions! During these discussions, in spite of his wrong perceptions, Job continued to hold on to a genuine faith in God. **(5) FINALLY, GOD COMES TO JOB** and asks a series of mind blowing questions! (Job 38-41).

**As God asks all these questions, Job begins to realize something—** the world does not revolve around me, my plans, my wants and wishes; nor around my ideas! Then, in Job 42:5-6, Job gives the proper response of repentance and humility before God!

**7. THEREFORE, LET US UNDERSCORE this truth: The world was not created for me, for us; or for our pleasure! The world and all that is in it was created by God and for God and for His purposes and His good pleasure.** (Rev. 4:11)

Indeed, flowing out of the setting of satan’s temptations, man’s sin, and God’s redemption— **grand demonstrations of God’s attributes are revealed as the Almighty God, the Master Potter, does ALL of His good pleasure!** (Rom 9:13-23)

**HERE ARE BOTTOM LINE REALITIES:**

**1. REALITY:** Were it not for the restraining mercies of Almighty God), there would be more HITLERS, more shooters, more ‘911’s’, MORE WARS ... etc... **Why? Because of the exceeding wickedness of human hearts! Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:22-23; Matthew 24:21-22.**

**2. FROM all of the atrocities to be found in our world... FROM every groan and from all the agony on the earth — coming from man or beast — IN REALITY IS THIS SHOUT: “O, the awfulness and the consequences of sin... O, THE DEPTH OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY ... O the wicked potential of my own heart!”**

**3. The FAR GREATER, supreme grand mystery of planet earth—** is the reality that there are countless Trophies of Grace—the redeemed, what a glorious wonder! Hell deserving as all others, yet redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, coming right out of the midst of a world of sin and suffering— this is the great mystery! **Amazing Grace!**

**4.** The redeemed have often suffered and have often been slaughtered by God haters. The redeemed have NOT been shielded from the diseases and other sufferings found in our fallen world. **However, for all eternity, the redeemed have no complaints or regrets!** (Rev. 7:14-17)

**5. From Genesis right through the Revelation,** God reveals that He holds men responsible and accountable. MOREOVER, throughout time, God demonstrates His patience. **But the day of vengeance against unrepentant rebels is REAL and is coming:** Romans 1:18-32; Rev. 16:4-11; 21:8. AND, for carrying out His holy and just wrath, **God will be rightfully worshiped!** (Rev. 19:1-2)

**6. ABOVE ALL ELSE God’s ultimate purpose** of a Bride for His Son, out of every kindred, tongue, tribe and people is now being and will be totally fulfilled: Rev. 21:9 - Rev. 22:5.

**7. Let us not be surprised that we do not understand all of these revelations from God, even though they are clearly**

**stated in His holy Word— for HIS ways are not our ways!**  
(Isa. 55:8-11)

SO, let us HUMBLE ourselves and rejoice! **ALMIGHTY GOD** who is love, who is all powerful, who is holy, who is faithful, who is merciful, and so much more— **REIGNS IN GRAND AND HOLY SOVEREIGNTY!** As Don Baker states, **“Sovereignty means that God is free to be God... It’s the truth that enables me to say THANK YOU to the One who allowed whatever it is that’s the cause of my anxiety and to know that He could have controlled it if He had wished.**

***Since He didn’t, then I accept the fact that INFINITE WISDOM and UNCHANGING LOVE conspired with ALMIGHTY POWER to cause something that’s ultimately for the Christian’s good and God’s glory!”***

[Who am I that I should question God on what He brings and/or what He allows? Who am I, a piece of clay, to argue with God, the Master Potter?] “THANKSGIVING to God [Giving THANKS in the midst of a world like ours] is not a psychological tool intended to change circumstances. **Its purpose is to change our attitudes, to lift our gaze from what we do not fully understand, to a focus of trust in and worship of the Almighty God of Calvary love and proclaim,**

*“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ... For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; to WHOM BE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN!”* (Rom. 11:33, 36)

And let us not forget: An amazing result of such THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to God is that **we begin to experience the peace of God that surpasses all**

**understanding!** (Phil. 4:6-7)

**WITH THANKSGIVING!** / James Bell

/ [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

### **SUNDAY SERVICES: NOVEMBER 27 / 2022**

**\*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **\*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am;**

**NOVEMBER 27 - EVENING SERVICE** (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **James Poteete** is scheduled to preach.)

### **ADVANCE NOTICE FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER and JANUARY—**

**1. December 4 & 11— regular schedules**

**2. December 18—regular MORNING SERVICE, with the LORD'S SUPPER; and....**

**2b. DECEMBER 18, 5PM... Adam, Bradley, Choir, and others will lead us in a SPECIAL TIME of SONGS and SCRIPTURES ... IN GRATITUDE FOR JESUS, THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT!**

**3. DECEMBER 25... 10:45 WORSHIP SERVICE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER. (No. S.S. or evening service)**

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**JANUARY 2023— In January... Sunday Evening Events are ONE WEEK LATER than normal... please note!**

**[1] January 1,** Sunday School and Worship Service, **only.**

**[2] January 8,** Sunday School and Worship Service, and FELLOWSHIP MEAL;

**[3] January 15,** Sunday School and Worship Service; FAITHFUL MEN, 5PM;

**[4] January 22, Sunday School and Worship Service, and LORD'S SUPPER; HOME GROUPS!**

**[5] January 29,** (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **Jim Barnhouse** is 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!)

**[STUDYS IN JEREMIAH] STARTING ON 11/26 and for 5 or 6 weeks: We 'BREAK' from Jeremiah, for BIBLICAL REVELATION ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!**

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study, January 2023**

**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>**

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**WE CONTINUE TO PRINT THE FOLLOWING HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES— WHY?**

**[1] SO as to Respond with WISDOM and NOT fear!**

**[2] SO AS TO KEEP SEEKING TO BE AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN!**

**[3] SO THAT BY GOD'S MERCIES AND GRACE, WE CAN CONTINUE 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!]**

**2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... 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, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed.

**DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE! BE PREVENTIVE!**

4. 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.]**

5. **HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL** resource from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons... FROM Doctors who successfully treat patients:  
<https://aapsonline.org/CovidPatientTreatmentGuide.pdf>

Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee. 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/>