

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.28, July 10**, 2012 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18)

SOUTHSIDERS: Prayerfully, study in advance and bring this COPY to SUNDAY SCHOOL, July 15. At the end of class, please GATHER some 'bullet-points' of truth that STOOD OUT as really important from the class time. **Write them down and bring them to the 1PM EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE** to share. **ALSO** include any QUESTIONS you would like to ask. **PRIMARY GOALS FROM THIS LESSON:**

- 1. To be instructed** as to the nature of TRUE CHURCH WORK!
- 2. To embrace the call** of God to function as a VITAL, LIVING, CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY TO WHICH GOD HAS JOINED YOU!
- 3. To more deeply insure** that by God's grace and His love WE WILL demonstrate to the watching world that we are DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST!

LIFE and Ministry in the Local Church!

(Acts 2:42-47; 4:23-33; 8:1-4)

In the New Testament church the rank and file members were not passive or bored; they were not mere church meeting attendees, spectators, or critics. They used their homes in the functioning of New Testament Christianity; but they did not forsake assembling as congregations, nor did they reject submission to one another in a body of believers!

The Acts 2:22-47 'model' for New Testament Churches was and is dynamic! (1)They boldly preached Christ. (2) The Holy Spirit brought conviction, repentance and a calling upon the LORD for salvation. (3) The new converts were gladly BAPTIZED. (4) Thereafter they were constantly devoting themselves to Bible Study, Worship, the LORD'S SUPPER, Prayer, Fellowship, one another ministry

and Evangelistic Outreach, (Acts 2:42- 47; 4:23-33; 8:1-4).

- **They were all filled** with the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- **They prayed together** and gave cheerfully and abundantly.
- **They preached**, ministered and prayed more.
- **They would not** retreat from persecution and would not stop preaching.
- **They filled** their city with the Gospel.
- **They turned** their world upside down with the Gospel.

Are we committed to walk in their steps?

I. TRUE CHRISTIANITY is a life of “Being With JESUS!”

Jesus chose 12 apostles **to be with Him**. (Mark 3:14-15) He prayed with and taught these men. He sent them out to minister. He gathered them for prayer, instruction and fellowship; then He sent them out to bear witness.

In the Acts of the Apostles we have this same pattern.

- **They GATHERED** for Bible Study, Worship, Prayer and Fellowship.
- **They SCATTERED** for ministry and witness. (Acts 5:42; 8:1-4)

Please note that their actions were not the result of begging or threats or guilt motivation or appeals to their carnal flesh! **Instead, they possessed indwelling desire which was fueled by gratitude for sins forgiven!** (Rom. 12:1-2)

REALITY: In normal Christianity there is no mere come, sit, soak, sour and leave to go back out into a lost world without life transformation and without indwelling compelling to take the Gospel to others.

Holy Spirit filled Believers do not merely gather to hear performances, critique church meetings or to selfishly look for something for me and mine.

Instead, **New Testament Christians GATHER to genuinely worship God, to receive teaching from God’s Word, to pray to God and to build up one another in the most holy faith. They SCATTER out into the world to make Christ known by transformed life and by proclaiming the Gospel.** Anything less than this may be religion, but it is not New Testament Christianity!

II. TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS A LIFE OF SERVING and MINISTRY!

The New Testament Church was and is a body of ministers/servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. If a stranger comes into our Morning Worship Service and asks, “WHERE ARE THE MINISTERS?” — HOW would YOU respond?

EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD STAND UP AND SAY, “I’M ONE! MAY I HELP YOU?”

AS WE SAW LAST WEEK, in the New Testament the “**One Another**” concept of ministering to each other is stated about 50 times! We should all be addicted to the ministry of the saints! (I Cor. 16:15) A normal New Testament Christian is a servant, a minister of Christ and is sovereignly placed in a local body of believers by Christ Himself and given gifts for the profit of all. (I Cor. 12)

- **Each one in the body is built up in the faith by that which is supplied by ALL OTHERS in the body.** (Eph. 4:16)
- **Pastors/Teachers** are gifts to a body of believers to equip the members for ***one to another*** ministries. (Eph. 4:11-12, 16)
- **Deacons** are set forth to be examples to the body of those who are addicted to the ministry of the saints. (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3)

In other words, the deacon both sees what service to others needs to be done and he does it; **and/or** ENLISTS OTHERS and sees that it gets done! **He models Jesus** who came not to be served but to serve! **All Christians are to serve, to minister.** Those ‘set before the Church’ are called to **model godly living and ministry!**

QUESTION: Am I a minister, a servant of Christ IN THE MIDST of the Body of Believers? Am I so living my life that if God wants me to serve as an Elder or as a Deacon— I will be able to hear Him calling and I will be available if called upon?

III. TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS A LIFE OF DISCIPLE-MAKING!

Apparently, some of the saints addressed in the book of **Hebrews** had backslidden into a condition common to church folk today. They may have had Bible studies and even much Bible knowledge; but **they had grown quite dull in spiritual understanding.**

Why?

Because they did not bother to apply, use, practice or to transfer to others what they learned. Thus, they began to lose even what they had. **They reverted into baby Christians.** (Heb. 5:11-14)

TODAY, THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS have attended Sunday School and Bible

studies and trainings and seminars for 20, 30 or even 40 years and **yet they have never** graduated into holy living; **nor are they** addicted to the ministry of the saints. (1 Cor. 16:15-16) **Moreover, they are not** telling forth the gospel.

QUESTION: Have I ‘graduated’ into growing holiness and ministry?

The New Testament Church exploded into their world with the Gospel, teaching others what they had been taught! WHY? BECAUSE the POWER and pattern of the New Testament Church was (AND STILL IS!) one of continuing steadfastly in Bible Study, Worship, Prayer, Building up the saints and proclaiming the gospel— with no begging, bribing, pleading or appealing to carnal flesh!

It is the overflow of the LIFE OF GOD in the soul by the Holy Spirit.

Think About it: What ‘training’ did the Woman at the Well have before telling her world about Jesus? New Testament testimony is that genuine encounters with JESUS transform lives and call forth spontaneous praise! We want others to meet JESUS.

In the book of Acts, Philip was first set forth to help wait on tables, (Acts 6); **but later** we find him going forth with the gospel, crossing racial barriers, Acts 8:5; **and we find him** being led by the Holy Spirit, Acts 8:26; **and preaching Christ** from Isaiah 53; and parenting four virgin daughters who proclaim Christ, Act 21:9.

This Biblical Pattern is clearly stated in 2 Timothy 2:2:

What I teach you; you teach others, who in turn will teach additional “others!”

IV. TRUE CHRISTIANITY CALLS US TO UNDERSTAND THAT God’s Work Through His Church Can and Will Be Done With Blessing and SPONTANEITY

Only By Those Who Are Born Again and Filled and Being Filled With The Holy Spirit!

The Early Church excelled in points ‘I, II, and III’ because they were **born again and Spirit Filled**. Every new born Christian is baptized in/by and with the Holy Spirit into Christ and His Body, of which Christ is the Living Head.

It is unthinkable that Jesus would birth LIFELESS

and ill equipped Christians! He doesn’t!

Moreover, there is abundant evidence that every new born Christian is also simultaneously filled with the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5) And as we see unfolded in the Acts of the Apostles, saints are often filled again and again, as they go forth in faith/obedience.

AGAIN: No one had to beg or plead with the **Woman at the well or the Ex-demonic or the Acts Christians before they manifested a transformed life and a spontaneous zeal to tell out the gospel!**

QUESTION: What is hindering me from going forward in the steps of these New Testament Christians?

Let us receive this specific Word of the LORD: **“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is HOLY; I dwell in the high and holy place, WITH HIM ALSO THAT IS OF A CONTRITE AND HUMBLE SPIRIT, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones....” Isaiah 57:15**

God is waiting to REVIVE US! Will I, will we say, “YES, LORD!”??

V. LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST: God wants everyone who is truly in the local body of believers to do the work of ministry and build up the body!

THE WORK OF MINISTRY— WHAT IS IT? Every Christian is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ; and Jesus says, **“The works that I do you will do greater.”** (John 14:12). Luke 4:18-19 tells us what the work of ministry is, that Jesus must be allowed to do through each one. **Each one is equipped with the Holy Spirit and He anoints you to:**

- **PREACH** the Gospel to the spiritually poor— evangelize! **HEAL** the brokenhearted with the love of Christ!
- **PROCLAIM** release to the captive and sight to the blind!
[Liberty- John 8:32; Light-John 8:12]
- **SET at liberty** them that are bruised or oppressed. (Mark 9:29)
- **PROCLAIM** the acceptable year of the Lord! ALL of this is the work of the ministry. It is God-given work for the whole body to engage in! It is directed toward the blind, captive, suffering world that is all around.

THE UPBUILDING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST—The “work of ministry” to which we are called requires a healthy body! Therefore, “The New Testament lays heavy emphasis upon the need for Christians to know each other, closely and intimately enough to be able to bear one another’s burdens, confess faults one to another, rebuke, exhort, and admonish one another, minister to one another with the Word of God and through songs, psalms, and prayer!” We are to FUNCTION in mutually caring one for another; ministering to one another— consequently laboring in building up one another in Christ.

FOUNDATIONAL TO ALL MEANINGFUL CHRISTIAN ACTION, OF COURSE IS LOVE! The body of Christ increases in health as we express

“ACTION LOVE” by the ‘One Anothers’... listed last week...

Grace to all! James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

1. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM!

2. YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Adam and Bethany’s home; Fellowship, snacks, Study. Jaden Allen and the Troutts will guide the teens through **‘DO HARD THINGS’** by Alex and Brett Harris.

2. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH VISITATION

3. EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study

Sunday Schedule for JULY 15, 22, 29

1. 9:30am- Sunday School.

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children’s Church

3. Noon Fellowship 'Covered Dish' Meal.

4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service {LORD’S SUPPER, JULY 15!}



Southside Christian School has a purposed focus— to team up with Christian families who desire Christian Education. A three-legged stool requires all three legs to be of the same length for the stool to function properly. In a similar fashion, **children need the Home, the Church and the School to model and teach the same philosophy of life.**

QUESTION: Is it wise for a child to spend 7-8 hours per day, 180 days a year for 12 or more years in a school system that does not support and encourage Christian faith values?

Thus, when enrolling children in a School, we encourage parents to ask questions like:

- 1) What is the philosophy of the curriculum?
- 2) Who are the Teachers and what is their philosophy of life and lifestyle?
- 3) Will your child be placed in classrooms with students who live in and who are already indoctrinated with the evils of a degenerating culture?

Southside Christian School— grades, K4 & K5 through 12 (For 2012-2013)

K-4/K-5 Reading Development classes are for students who will be age 4 by August 1, 2012 and students who are already age 5. **Our phonics based K-4 and K-5 classes** are individualized and designed for a variety of learners. Every child is different. Children's coordination development does not mature at the same time. Thus, each prospective student is given a **Reading Readiness 'Assessment'** and then prescribed the appropriate class.

1. Kindergarten with Ace and Christi (reading readiness) is based on a complete scope and sequence of concepts and skills needed to prepare a child to be ready to read. This full-year program is designed for **children who test "NOT ready to read"** on the *ABCs of A.C.E. Reading Readiness Test*.

This has nothing to do with IQ. It has to do with where the child is in the development of motor skills and maturity. Most 4 year olds and some 5s will start in this class. It is in the best interest of the child to be placed according to their present mental development.

The curriculum is filled with Bible and animal pictures, coordination development activities, and full-color picture stories encourage a love for reading. The program is intended to foster quick learning of the phonetic sounds for all letters so that when the student is ready to learn to read, he/she will do so. Students will also learn social skills, the wonders of God's world, and the reality of God's love.

The Kindergarten with Ace and Christi (reading readiness) class prepares students for the **ABCs with Ace and Christi program (learning-to-read)**. It enables the child to develop the skills, master the concepts, and achieve the level of physical development necessary for success in reading. It lays a solid foundation on which to build the rest of a child's education.

2. ABCs with Ace and Christi: Students, who test and demonstrate their reading readiness, are forwarded in the curriculum into our **ABCs with Ace and Christi reading to learn program**. This is a lively and phonetically based curriculum which features cartoon characters, songs, poems, displays and character-building activities. Especially after the first 18 weeks, **students in this class experience more and more freedom to advance according to their individual speed.**

3. The *Presenting Accelerated Christian Education* video will give a comprehensive overview of the **Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)** system of education which we utilize at Southside Christian School, (SCS).

The video will explain core concepts and procedures in a SCS classroom—
especially in grades 1-12.

CLICK HERE: <http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

Southside Christian School, K4/K5 - Grade 12 Call: 615-452-5951