

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.32, August 7**, 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, August 12. 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.

Note: In these special Sunday School lessons we have focused on **(1) The Worship of God, (2) The building up of ONE ANOTHER in Christ, (3) The LOST HARVEST in our mission fields... from here to the ends of the earth; and (4) our CALL to go into our mission fields living and telling the gospel. ALL OF THIS REQUIRES TIME!**

Thus, this week we take a look at the Biblical concept of Sabbath rest — special weekly time set aside for the worship of God, rest and good works — which provides a way to place priority on the worship of God, the building up of one another in Christ, and witnessing to the lost.

SUNDAY: A SPECIAL DAY for a SPECIAL Family at Southside!

I shall introduce you to a special family by means of us "looking in on them" as they get ready for Sunday Services at Southside.

1. A Typical Saturday with this Christian Family!

We find that preparations for each LORD'S DAY services are a six day a week delight for our special **family**. It seems that God's Word has taught them to build their lives around **a weekly sacred rhythm**. They seek to **integrate both worship and work** in their Christian living! **Thus, every week is built around the following:**

Prior to the LORD'S DAY — in the midst of their world of family, school, work and etc — there are **three days** of prayerful planning, ministry, and **anticipation** leading up to and contributing mightily to making each LORD'S DAY special.

They have a passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL! Why? Because the LORD'S DAY is a special day to DELIGHT IN GOD. (Isaiah 58:13-14) It is a special day for worship, for ministry, for rest. There is no carnal legalism here. They just recognize that **precious relationships and priority ministry require specific and precious time. Honestly, why would any Christian not place supreme priority on Delighting in God?**

Our **Christian family told us** that **in view of the great mercies of God**, holding the LORD'S DAY sacred for God is not at all duty but rather it is a grand delight! **(Isaiah 58:13-14)** There is no strain required in order **to refrain from** their own ways, their own pleasures or their own ideas as to how each LORD'S DAY will be spent. In the light of the MERCIES of God, their passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL is but reasonable worship and service! **(Rom. 12:1-2)** Moreover, they are not ashamed to humbly inform family and friends, that **as for their household—** Sundays uniquely belong to the LORD.

*“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath **a delight, The holy day of the LORD** honorable, And shall **honor Him**, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, ¹⁴ Then you shall **delight yourself in the LORD**; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 58:13-14, NKJV)*

Our Special **Christian family** further informed us that the **three days following the LORD'S DAY** are **days of reflection upon and responses** to the special presence of God revealed in the assembly of the saints on the LORD'S DAY. On the LORD'S DAY,

- a. Congregational praise and worship were offered to God,
- b. Fellowship and ministry took place in the midst of the congregation,
- c. The Word of God was readily received; and now... following the LORD'S DAY,
- d. They seek to invade their world with the gospel!**

In other words, for our **Christian family**, these are days of loving obedience to the revelations received the previous LORD'S DAY.

This is their common, sacred weekly rhythm!

2. THIS SACRED, WEEKLY RHYTHM EXPLAINS THEIR SATURDAY CHOICES!

On a recent Saturday, we found them in some of their LORD'S DAY PREPARATIONS. It was obvious that for them there were **no late Saturday nights out partying, playing, movies, going to games or malls or a thousand other allurements!**

Instead, on Saturday Evenings our Christian family is typically involved in the following:

- a. Sunday School lessons are studied;
- b. Last minute checks are made on those to whom the Gospel was planted during the week;
- c. Prayers are lifted up for the LORD'S blessing on all the LORD'S DAY services;
- d. Clock alarms are set early enough so that on the LORD'S DAY morning they will not be rushed.**

In other words, they are functioning like a missionary family on a mission field!

REALITY: Sometimes there are special Saturday family activities, but regardless they MAKE SURE to be in bed early enough so as to be fully rested and refreshed for a GRAND LORD'S DAY OF DELIGHTING IN GOD!

Obviously, all of the above activities give our **Christian family** plenty of sound reasons to pray for God to give increase on the LORD'S DAY!

We also learned that their family and individual prayers were usually **in addition to** the prayers they prayed with other saints at the Church-wide Wednesday Prayer Service.

3. SUNDAY, the LORD'S DAY, with our Christian Family!

Apparently, it was some time ago that our **Christian family** began to make positive modifications in their living patterns so that every LORD'S DAY is now a sacred, special day to Delight in God!

They live a few miles from the Southside church building; nevertheless, because they purposely go to bed early on Saturday evenings— Sunday mornings find them rested, up early with plenty of time for family devotions, breakfast, some family time, necessary chores, and even plenty of time to arrive early for Sunday School!

It is clear that our **Christian family** is excited about being in place early so as to welcome those they have invited to come this Sunday; and/or to briefly meet with those with whom they are in accountability; and/or to spend a few moments with those they are discipling!

Soon after arrival at the church building we find our **Christian family** helping visitors or newcomers find all the right places... and helping visitors/newcomers to be introduced to others and to have someone to sit with during the worship hour, etc.

One Sunday, we spotted Mom of our special family in the hallway, praying with a single Mom who was all stressed and feeling hopeless. **Between** Sunday School and Worship services **and after** the Worship services they continued ministering. We also

discovered that it is common for our **Christian family** to have their ***eyes open for ministry*** opportunities during the Fellowship Meal.

Furthermore, they made a point to say that it would take something really serious to keep them from the LORD'S SUPPER times.

Interestingly, our **Christian family testified** that they never have discussions as to whether or not they will be faithful to attend and participate in the Southside LORD'S DAY services. It's a given. It is preeminent priority. As one might expect, our **Christian family** commonly use LORD'S DAY afternoons for rest and/or for family and/or ministry.

Obviously, our Christian Family Has a Passion to Make Sundays Special! It seems that each of the family members come to Church services, armed with "**A Sunday Search!**" (This "Search" is no longer written down, since the "Sunday Search" is by now so ingrained in their lifestyle) [Note: Samples of a 'Sunday Search' will be available 8/12/12]

But before each LORD'S DAY is over, they have a family time of sharing:

(1) "How Christ spoke **TO me** today!"— through the S.S. lesson, Music, the Sermon, etc.

(2) "How Christ spoke **THROUGH me** today!"— those to whom they were blessed to minister.

(3) What follow up strategies they might use in the coming days with those to whom they

are encouraging and/or sharing the Gospel. Our **Christian family** said that **in these ways**

they are further spreading the good news of the present works of God.

4. MONDAY through SATURDAY with our Christian Family!

As already reported, our **Christian family** purposely divides each week into three days of REFLECTION/application; and three days of ANTICIPATION.

But we dare not forget! They have chores, duties, jobs, School, Homework, stresses, trials like every other family. However, their focus and passion in life is GOD AND HIS KINGDOM.

a. Thus, in their neighborhood, at school, at work— they seek to live holy, to love, to bless, and to do good to all men and especially to other Christians.

b. They seek to build bridges of love.

c. They seek to establish TOUCH POINTS... so that they can build caring relationships... ultimately so that they may share the gospel.

WHY?

BECAUSE they look upon Themselves as Missionaries who are No Different From a Missionary Serving in the Deepest Jungle.

They purpose to be excellent employees and/or students and neighbors. At times they participate in various community, civic, sports and/or cultural events. Why? There are a number of reasons. **But chief among them is that these all provide opportunities/settings to make Christ visible out in the midst of their mission field.**

5. One More Significant Reality in our Christian Family.

They are committed to guarding the unity of the Holy Spirit at Southside. **Thus, they have purposely bound themselves:**

- a. We will not listen to or inquire of any evil or negative reports of others in the Body.
- b. If we hear an evil report, we will not believe it.
- c. If we hear an evil report, we will go directly and ASAP to the person about whom the evil report was given, humbly inform them, seeking truth and healing.
- d. If we hear of an evil report and we see no reason to go directly to the person about whom the report was given, we will in no wise speak the evil report to anyone else.
- e. We will seek to practice 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

6. Some may be wondering— “Who is this Christian family?... I don’t think I’ve met them!” ...

Or you might think: “What have you been drinking? **THERE ARE NO SUCH FAMILIES!**

Response: Well, it should be your family and mine!

To whatever degree any of us don’t measure up, we must make some serious decisions:

- a. We can humble ourselves, repent as needed, and get on the road of DELIGHTING IN GOD, ministering to saints, and of being Foreign Missionaries!

b. Or we can make excuses, play church and invite the judgment of God which will come on saltless saints (Matthew 5:13)!

Abundant Grace to Each and All! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

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 are guiding 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 August 12 (NOTE: LORD'S SUPPER, 8/12!)

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

(NOTE: LORD'S SUPPER, 8/12!)

AUGUST 19— A FULL DAY OF JOHN MAKAY, of Creation Research Teaching!

He will be teaching at 9:30am & 10:45am // **NO MEAL AT CHURCH** // John will continue teaching at 4pm; Coffee/snack break at 5:30pm; teaching at 6pm. JOHN SENT THIS:

9:30am/ 10:45am and 4 pm - 3 different teaching sessions IN SIX DAYS GOD CREATED - 6 days , 6 thousand or 6 billion years? Join the Creation Guy John Mackay over 3 sessions as he shares on Genesis and the 6 days of creation and looks at.... Were they real days? Did God need millions of years to create?

Find out why you don't need to resort to the Gap theory, Day age or Framework hypothesis. Learn why it matters and find out whether the long life spans in Genesis were real? Come see for yourself the evidence God's word is true from the first day of creation to the last Word in Revelation.

Then 6 pm DINOSAURS CREATION AND NOAHS FLOOD? Hear one man who has been on many dinosaur digs as he shares evidence the Bible is real history. Were they the dragons of old. Where does Noahs flood fit. Join John Mackay the Creation Guy and see the facts for your selves. GREAT Q&A opportunity. 1.5 hrs

AUGUST 26— SOUTHERN BAPTIST MISSIONS CELEBRATION! We will have a Missionary during the Sunday School hour, during the morning worship, and during the early afternoon service.

[We WILL have our normal Fellowship Covered-Dish Lunch]

1. 9:30am- Sunday School: Robin Reeves, North American Mission Board, Kentucky

2. 10:45am- A.M. Worship, - Bill Wardlaw, International Mission Board, Africa

Note: Bill Wardlaw and our Director of Missions, Mike Pennington, will have LUNCH with us!

3. 1:00pm- Afternoon service: Mike McClanahan, North American Mission Board (Soon to serve in New York)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR SCS— AUGUST 13, at 8am

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?

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](http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE)**

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