

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.39, October 2, 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)

ELECTION 2012 and Critical Action!

This coming November, we are scheduled for yet another major presidential ELECTION in America. **In 2008, America elected a new president who promised to bring change.** Those who were the least bit awake and cared enough to do even minor research into his past knew, at least in part, what to expect— namely, RADICAL CHANGE away from traditional American values which were rooted in a **Ju·de·o·Chris·tian heritage. (Judeo-Christian:** of or pertaining to the religious writings, beliefs, values, or traditions held in common by Judaism and Christianity.) But let's be clear: America elected him and may well re-elect him this coming November because more and more Americans have been and are in a RADICAL MOVE AWAY FROM OUR ROOTS!

Quite a few folks rightfully respond in disbelief at President Obama's claims to be a Christian. President Obama has openly stated that he believes that there are a number of ways to heaven. Well... that is what exactly what HUGE numbers of Americans— in and out of churches— believe! IN CONTRAST the genuine Christian takes Jesus at His word: "I am the way, the truth and the life and NO ONE comes to the Father but by Me!"

As a nation, we have many astronomical challenges— not the least of which is a 16 trillion dollar debt that continues to explode. A few years back, Senator Obama spoke clear truth on this subject... coupled with a stinging indictment:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. **It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our Government's reckless fiscal policies. ...** Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here. Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. **America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."**

In the following clip, Senator Obama rightly tagged President Bush for all the debt he added during his eight years as President; and Senator Obama says of Bush's financial policy of increased debt: "THAT'S IRRESPONSIBLE! THAT'S UNPATRIOTIC!"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydZTHPkOnvE>

NOW, AFTER LESS THAN 3 YEARS, PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS LED THE WAY IN GETTING THE DEBT TO \$16 TRILLION. As Senator Obama rightly stated:

"That's irresponsible. That's Unpatriotic!" "America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."— Senator Barack Obama

Moreover, President Obama has admitted that he favors re-distributing wealth. This is not a new thought for him. Some years back he stated:

"What I think will re-engage people in politics is if we're doing significant, serious policy work around what I will label the 'working poor,'" he said, "although my definition of the working poor is not simply folks making minimum wage, but it's also families of four who are making \$30,000 a year. They are struggling. And to the extent that we are doing research figuring out what kinds of government action would successfully make their lives better, **we are then putting together a potential majority coalition to move those agendas forward."**

Read more: <http://politicaloutcast.com/2012/09/obama-admits-desire-for-more-poverty-finds-success-in-obama-phone-woman/#ixzz285lffobj>

His plan was and is clear: Make more and more people dependent upon government so as to put together a majority political coalition. It is no mystery as to why during Obama's first term in office more and more are dependent upon the government. He is orchestrating the spending of mega-billions of dollars of tax-payer's money to create a political majority who will vote for those who promote a 'NANNY STATE'!

Because of the failures of Democrats and Republicans and the failures of Bush and now compounded even more by Obama— it is very likely that regardless of whoever is elected in November 2012— **we are in 'deep weeds!'**

We could fill many pages with the ominous headlines of pending problems on many fronts. **We can be overcome with fear of potential doomsday scenarios.**

Yes, we do need to be reminded that as Christians we are commanded to pray for those who are presently in authority from the President down to the local level. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Yes, in America we still have the freedom and I believe a keen responsibility to seek to elect those who are closest to Biblical values. **REALITY: This year's political conventions revealed that** we are now to a point to where one of the political parties is openly, blatantly anti-God, pro-sodomy, and more open than ever in favor of

continuing to MURDER millions more of unborn babies, etc. Sadly, these positions may prove to be very smart political moves— for they only reflect where masses of Americans are already standing!

Yes, it is true that both national political parties are guilty as sin in spending America into debt. Of course, we hate the debt— nevertheless most Americans are ready to accept ‘government money’ for their projects, their ‘needs’... and we will worry about the debt later!

BUT JUST WHAT MIGHT BE THE GREATEST DANGER THAT GENUINE CHRISTIANS FACE IN THESE TIMES?

Response: We just might forget who we are, whose we are and why we are here!

THE WORLD WILL BE THE WORLD! A great ‘Babylon Spirit’ invades every nation and every sphere of our world including politics, economics, education, science, religion, you name it!

THE WORLD IS AT HOME IN THE WORLD AND ABOVE ALL ELSE— THE WORLD HATES THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD; and they will hate those who worship, follow and serve JESUS CHRIST AS LORD and accept the Bible as absolute, final and inerrant truth!

THEREFORE, AS CHRISTIANS, DO WE NOT NEED TO MAKE A CONFESSION... SOMETHING LIKE THIS? —

“I am a stranger, an alien on earth, [“temporary residents and foreigners”] a citizen of another country ENTRUSTED with Ambassadorship! (2 Cor. 5:17-21) Thus, above all else, I am on earth to represent my KING’S world-wide interests, to carry out His Great Commission!

It just so happens that MY KING is the creator and owner of this little speck, called earth. Yes, He created and owns all that is... anywhere! And MY KING has an agenda. **And His agenda is not the temporal prosperity and longevity of the USA or of any other nation!**

Rather, His agenda is the saving of a numberless multitude from sin, self, satan and saving them from the much deserved and holy wrath of ALMIGHTY GOD, MY KING and then GROWING them in Christlikeness!

Thus, as a secondary and temporary ‘green card’ citizen of a nation on earth, for us, the USA— I vote and etc.

However, I must not be fretful or bent out of shape or overly fearful if even the worst of bad politicians get elected! **For MY KING is still in charge! (Daniel 4:17)** NOTHING can hinder Him from carrying out His agenda. (Ps. 22:28; 103:19; Prov. 21:1; Isa. 43:13)

MOREOVER, nothing that happens on earth changes my AMBASSADORSHIP assignments! (1 Cor. 5:17-21; Matt. 28:18-20; 24:14)

So, YES, vote in November! Encourage others to vote! VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH BIBLICAL VALUES. Vote for those closest to such values.

However, the really important question is this:

ARE there any of US interested in “Turning the world upside down?”

Many Christians are led to believe that the ONLY way [or certainly the BEST way] **for the church to make a powerful impact** [to be salt and light] **is to be VERY ACTIVE in the fray of earth-bound politics.** Well, again, there is certainly a place for all the aspects of being good temporal citizens and in America that involves voting, and/or actively supporting certain candidates or issues, and/or running for office, etc.

However, the true Bride of Christ is totally unique in the midst of all the groups in the whole world— **we are, in fact, citizens of heaven and we are in this present world as ‘foreigners’... citizens of another nation, Ambassadors for Christ!**

As Ambassadors for Christ, we have a unique weapon/strategy with which we can radically and effectively war against evil and actually WIN!

What is this Divine strategy?

It is the Gospel of God’s Amazing Grace, the POWER OF GOD unto salvation! **BUT TODAY, SADLY,** even many Bible-believing Churchmen scoff at those who dare to suggest that the church should **focus her energies on living and proclaiming** the GOSPEL OF GOD!

Such a strategy is most often met with loud protests of,

“So, what you are saying is that we are supposed to sit around and do nothing and let our beloved nation go down the drain!? **Don’t you get it? We are supposed get out into the public square and be SALT AND LIGHT!”**

Yes, we are supposed to be ‘salt and light!’ BUT HOW? Read the Acts of the Apostles in your Bible! Read the Epistles! Read the 7 letters of Jesus to the Church!

Scan 2000 years of Church history— **The only times that the Church of Jesus Christ has EVER positively revolutionized a community or a country** [turned the world upside down] **have been those times when she lived holy, pure, loving, forgiving and at the same time boldly proclaimed the GOSPEL OF CHRIST.**

Frankly, it is easy for Pastors to be considered bold and brave as they promote the latest “save our nation from the pagans” strategy.

Today, there are any number of pastors and religious leaders with great political clout, trying to save America. **Multi- billions of dollars, with sincere effort to match, have been spent in our life time— ALL SEEKING TO STEM THE TIDE OF SIN AND FILTH** by the primary means of political efforts.

AND YET IT IS UNDENIABLE: The morality of the nation **is not better off today in 2012** than it was before all of these efforts. The flood of filth and the endangerment of cherished freedoms are rising at an alarming rate in spite of all these MASSIVE and sincere political efforts led by religious conservatives.

BUT FAR MORE IMPORTANT, during this same time period — that same flood of SIN filth has been and is RISING right in the memberships of the conservative, fundamental, Bible-believing, Evangelical and Charismatic and Pentecostal churches of America!

This is not the way to be ‘salt and light!’ But it is a sure way to bring divine judgment! (Matthew 5:13) **STUDY CHURCH HISTORY: There have been times** when the church greatly AFFECTED THE PUBLIC SQUARE IN VERY GODLY WAYS! **In every case, it was the overflow of REVIVAL that first brought a backslidden church to brokenness and repentance over her own sins!**

And those revivals brought a recession among all the ‘sin businesses’ of the land as church folk stop buying ‘sin’ products! **Moreover, when sinners truly get saved— ‘sin dealers’ experience recession and get mad!** (Acts 16:14-24; 19:13-20)

Real revival **confronts us** in the daily issues of life! There are organizations that publish **SCORECARDS** on political candidates. So, here is a SCORECARD for saints! **What Does My (Your) lifestyle reflect** about the BIBLICAL ISSUES/VALUES that are raised by the following questions? **The effectiveness of our Ambassadorship is at stake!**

DEFICIT SPENDING: Do I live within my means? Do I refuse to spend money I don't have? Am I debt-free, or at least seriously working toward being debt-free?

SOCIAL SECURITY / CARE FOR THE ELDERLY: Do I honor my parents? Am I committed to providing for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs? Do I respect the elderly, listen to their counsel, and learn from their lives? Am I laying up treasures in heaven?

WELFARE / POVERTY: Am I compassionately aware of the needs of the poor around me? Do I give sacrificially of time and financial resources so as to minister to the needs of the poor? Do I do what I can to help feed the poor, and to seek ways to help others to be productive rather than shifting all responsibility to the government?

SANCTITY OF LIFE: Do I agree with the Bible that all human life is precious to God? Do I place equal value on those that the world would consider unattractive or undesirable? Do I view children as a gift from God? Do I agree with the Bible that God opens and closes the womb, and that children ought to be welcomed? Do I agree that the murder of children [born or unborn] is wrong?

EDUCATION: Am I faithful and diligent in teaching my children the ways of God? Am I a student of the Word of God, so that I may be an unashamed workman, able to give sound reasons for my hope in Christ? Do I help fellow Christians to know the life changing truth and reality of God's Word? Do I seek to educate the lost in my world with the Gospel of Christ? **Does my life MODEL the Word of God that I am teaching?**

PRAYER AND BIBLE READING: Do I read, study and meditate upon the Word of God on a daily basis? Do I encourage fellow saints to do the same? Do I cultivate a life of prayer? Do I gather with the church family for prayer? Do I seek to APPLY the Word of God in my daily living?

VIOLENT CRIME: Am I free from an angry, contentious, and violent temper? Can I honestly say that there is no one that I have stolen from, cheated, or wronged and not gone back to them to make it right? **The tongue has the power of DEATH!** Is my tongue CRUCIFIED to such VIOLENT CRIME? Is my tongue a giver of LIFE?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Am I patient, loving, gentle, kind and self-controlled in my relationships with my spouse and children? DO I PERSONALLY OPPOSE abortion and train my family to likewise respect human life, especially of the helpless? AM I allowing Domestic Violence to flood my heart and my family's hearts by means of productions from Hollywood? Am I free from the many horrible paths of **the violence of immorality, in mind and in practice, in what I look at and in how I treat others sexually?**

DEFENSE: Am I fully alert to the strategies and deceptions of the devil? Do I consciously put on the whole armor of God? The best defense is a good offense— thus, am I cultivating genuine faith-obedience to God? Am I diligently seeking to love God with all my heart? Am I 'my brother's keeper' in spiritual battle?

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Am I personally involved in BRINGING PEACE to our world through LIVING AT PEACE and by sharing the Gospel of Christ with the lost?

Am I actively involved in praying for and financially supporting missionaries and ministries that are proclaiming the PEACE OF Christ around the world? Am I seriously obeying the Biblical command to pray for those in authority? Am I a serious student of the Word of God, so that I understand the times and know how to respond...or am I a robot slave to the world's News media?

CHARACTER and INTEGRITY: Am I honest in all my business and financial dealings? Is there any relationship, practice, or habit in my life that I would be ashamed to have publicly exposed? Is my private lifestyle consistent with what others think of me?

TRUTHFUL / KEEPS PROMISES: Do I keep my word? Do I keep my marriage vows? **If I were tried in court and accused of being a real Christian— Would there be ABUNDANT EVIDENCE to bring about a conviction?** (The original idea for the list came from Life Action Ministries)

An election is coming up— Vote in line with Biblical values! BUT remember: You and I are citizens of America. More importantly, we are Ambassadors for Christ to a foreign and temporary land!

Follow Jesus! Fish for men! Build up Saints!

Let us PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to our personal SCORECARD!

**Political clout is not sufficient for the task at hand!
Revived, Holy Spirit filled Christians, boldly living and boldly preaching the
gospel
is the UNIQUE and powerful need of the hour!**

ARE there any AMONG US interested in being used of God for the turning of our world upside down by the Gospel— ONE SOUL AT A TIME!?"

— Grace to all! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

- 1. Tuesdays, 10:30am— Ladies Bible Study!**
- 2. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM!
YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Adam and Bethany's home.**
- 3. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH VISITATION**
- 4. EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: Men's Fellowship and Bible Study**

Sunday Schedule for October 7, 14, 21, 28

- 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 SERVICE is 10/21/12 @ 1pm}}

Southside Christian School:

Students entering SCS for the first time are diagnostically tested and placed in class-work where they are actually performing— thus, existing 'learning gaps' are discovered and remedied. A student can enter SCS at any time, begin work and go forward without having been left behind. Please VIEW the video! Then call us: 615-452-5951

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