

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.44, November 6, 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 DAY— NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

November 6, 2012— we are experiencing yet another major presidential ELECTION in America. Developing this article on November 5<sup>th</sup>— I have not a clue as to who will be elected or of how soon we will know. HOWEVER, here are a few matters for consideration:

**I. This is obvious— People tend to vote for those with whom they most identify!**

**\*\*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 are 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 in 2008 and may well have re-elected him in 2012 because more and more Americans have been and are themselves in a RADICAL MOVE AWAY FROM OUR ROOTS!

**\*\*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.**

**➔ BUT LET'S BE CLEAR:** These positions may prove to be very smart political moves — for they only reflect where growing masses of Americans are already standing... **even among professing Christians!**

**\*\*Yes, it is true that both national political parties are guilty as sin in spending America into debt. Of course, we hate the debt.**

→ **BUT LET'S BE CLEAR:** Most Americans are ready to accept 'government money' for their projects, their desires and 'needs'— \*The record 11 million Americans on disability is larger than the population of a majority of states. \*Over 100 million Americans get entitlement checks. (Almost 1 out of every 3 Americans.) \*One sixth of all personal income in the USA is now provided by government. Some of this is legit money. But regardless— we will worry about the debt later!

\*\*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.

**BUT LET'S BE CLEAR:** 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!"***

→ 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 TOMORROW— we are in 'deep weeds!'**

**II. HERE IS A MUCH BIGGER QUESTION:** 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!** The Bible informs us that 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. Moreover, they will hate those who worship, follow and serve JESUS CHRIST AS LORD and accept the Bible as absolute, final and inerrant truth!

**III. THEREFORE, AS CHRISTIANS, DO WE NOT NEED TO MAKE A CONFESSION— SOMETHING LIKE THIS and stand firm on the following Biblical Truths?**

**1. "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!"**

**2. "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. CAN WE RECEIVE THIS?— God's primary 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 holy and righteous wrath; and then GROWING them in Christlikeness!"**

**3. “Yes, as temporary ‘green card’ citizen of the USA—** I vote. Moreover, I am to PRAY for all in authority. I am to be respectful of earthly authorities— they are ministers of God! **I am to obey earthly authorities, UNLESS to do so would place me at odds with JESUS CHRIST my HIGHEST AUTHORITY—** the ONE who have given earthly authorities their delegated and limited authority.”

**4. “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 God 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, if you have not already voted— VOTE! Encourage others to vote! VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH BIBLICAL VALUES. Vote for those closest to such values.

#### **IV. BE AT PEACE AND FILLED WITH GODLY CONFIDENCE AND HOPE, FOR:**

**Psalm 22:28—** GOD is THE GOVERNOR among the nations; **Psalm 75:6,7—** GOD is THE JUDGE and He puts one down and sets up another; **Psalm 103:19—** The LORD’S kingdom rules over all; **Psalm 115:3 / 135:6—** GOD has done whatsoever He pleased in heaven, in the earth, in the seas, and all the deep places;

**Proverbs 16:9—** A man’s heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps; **Proverbs 19:21—** The counsel of the LORD 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—** God: There is none who can deliver out of my hand; I work and none can reverse it; **Lam. 3:37—** Who is he that saith, and it comes to pass, when the LORD commanded it not? **Daniel 2:20-21—** GOD: He removes kings and sets up kings; **Daniel 4:17; 4:34-35; 5:21—** *The MOST HIGH GOD rules in the kingdom of men, and He appoints over it whomsoever He will.*

#### **V. A VERY BRIEF CHURCH HISTORY LESSON!**

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! **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.**

## **VI. SO AS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR 'MISSION FIELD' HERE IS AN AMERICAN HISTORY LESSON!**

[NOTE: The following quote is by Patrick J. Buchanan. It is quite revealing in setting forth some of the 'CHANGE' that has been and is happening in America. **As Christians, it is good to have some basic understanding of the 'state' of our mission field!**]

"Providence has been pleased to give this one connected country to one united people — a people descended from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, professing the same religion, attached to the same principles of government, very similar in their manners and customs, and who, by their joint counsels, arms, and efforts, fighting side by side throughout a long and bloody war, have nobly established general liberty and independence." **So wrote John Jay in Federalist No. 2, wherein he describes Americans as a "band of brethren united to each other by the strongest ties."**

**That "band of brethren united" no longer exists.** No longer are we "descended from the same ancestors." Indeed, as we are daily instructed, it is our "diversity" — our citizens can trace their ancestors to every member state of the United Nations — that "is our strength." **And this diversity makes us [SUPPOSEDLY] a stronger, better country than the America of Eisenhower and JFK.** No longer do we speak the same language. To tens of millions, Spanish is their language. Millions more do not use English in their homes. Nor are their children taught in English in the schools.

**As for "professing the same religion,"** the Christianity of Jay and the Founding Fathers has been purged from all public institutions. One in 5 Americans profess no religious faith. The mainline Protestant churches — the Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian — have been losing congregants for a half-century. Secularism is the religion of the elites. It alone is promulgated in public schools.

**Are we attached to "the same principles of government"?** Half the nation believes it is the duty of government to feed, house, educate and medicate the population and endlessly extract from the well-to-do whatever is required to make everybody more equal. Egalitarianism has triumphed over freedom. Hierarchy, the natural concomitant of freedom, is seen as undemocratic. [**Economic egalitarianism** is a state of economic affairs in which equality of outcome has been manufactured for all the participants of a society. It is a founding principle of various forms of socialism, communalism and cooperative economic organization.]

**Are we similar "in our manners and customs"?** Are we agreed upon what is good or even tolerable in music, literature, art? Do we all seek to live by the same moral code? Abortion, a felony in the 1950s, is now a constitutional right. Homosexual marriage, an absurdity not long ago, is the civil rights cause du jour. Dissent from the intolerant new orthodoxy and you are a bigot, a hater, a homophobe, an enemy of women's rights.

**Recent wars — Vietnam, Iraq — have seen us not “fighting side by side” but fighting side against side.** Racially, morally, politically, culturally, socially, the America of Jay and the Federalist Papers is ancient history. Less and less do we have in common.

**And to listen to cable TV is to realize that Americans do not even like one another.** If America did not exist as a nation, would these 50 disparate states surrender their sovereignty and independence to enter such a union as the United States of 2012?

**Nor are we unique in sensing that we are no longer one.** Scotland, Catalonia and Flanders maneuver to break free of the nations that contain their peoples. All over the world, peoples are disaggregating [Breaking apart] along the lines of creed, culture, tribe and faith. (End of Patrick J. Buchanan quote)

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## **VII. BY THE TIME YOU ARE READING THIS— I ASSUME AMERICA WILL HAVE A DECISION REVEALED AS TO WHO WILL BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS!**

The following is drawn from several sources. THESE MATTERS are set before us to HELP US RESPOND correctly to President Obama to the end of his present term; and to pray for whoever is the President-Elect for the next 4 years.

### **1. Praying for President-Elect \_\_\_\_\_!**

[This is edited from Josh Harris, written in 2008 right after the election of President Obama]

After the election a BIG PORTION of the country will be elated, confident that all will be right or at least BETTER in the world because their candidate won. The other BIG PORTION of the country will likely be dejected and sure that ALL HOPE has ended because their candidate lost. **But Christians should realize that both responses are wrong.** No President or President-Elect is worthy of being your ultimate hope.

**REGARDLESS of who wins— JESUS HAS NOT STOPPED REIGNING OVER THE WORLD!**

**Those who KNOW Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord can be filled with a quiet peace and confidence in all seasons.** Our Savior is Jesus.

OUR CHIEF ‘COMMANDER-IN CHIEF’ IS JESUS AND HIS ASSIGNMENT FOR HIS FOLLOWERS REMAINS: **GO! MAKE! MARK! And MATURE DISCIPLES!**

We must turn to him with joy and faith. **And as we do let's pray for our President-Elect that God would give him wisdom and grace to lead our nation in the days to come.**

### **2. Praying for President-Elect \_\_\_\_\_!**

[This is edited from Justin Taylor, written in 2008, right after the election of President Obama... **NOW, IN 2012, LET US APPLY THIS TO OUR PRESENT SITUATION**]

No matter who you voted for -- or whether you voted at all -- it's important to remember that, as President, \_\_\_\_\_ will have God-given authority to govern us, and that we should view him as a servant of God (Rom. 13:1, 4) to whom we should be subject and give respect, (Rom. 13:1, 5; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

- \* We are to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- \* We are to thank God for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- \* We are to respect \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:7).
- \* We are to honor \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17).

**VIII. Grateful for (Almost) Any Government**, edited from John Piper, 11/4/2008

How does the Bible instruct us to pray for “all who are in high positions”? It says, First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ([1Timothy 2:1-4](#)). **A few observations:**

**1. Giving thanks “for kings” is hard when they are evil.**

And, as Calvin said on this passage, “All the magistrates of that time were sworn enemies of Christ.” This shows us that **anarchy is a horrible alternative to almost any ruler**. We should give thanks for rulers because “non-rule” would unleash on us utterly unbridled evil with no recourse whatever.

Again Calvin: “Unless they restrained the boldness of wicked men, the whole world would be full of robberies and murders.” The better we understand the seething evil of the human heart that is ready to break out where there is no restraint, the more thankful we will be for government.

**2. The effect we pray for is “that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly, and dignified in every way.”**

Dignified means “serious and reverent,” not stuffy. **I suspect what Paul means is not that we can’t live godly and serious lives during times of anarchy.** We can. I suspect he means that peaceful and quiet lives, which are the opposite of anarchy, are often wasted in ungodly and frivolous actions.

So he is praying for a government that would give peace and quiet (not anarchy), **and that Christians would not fritter away their peaceful lives with the world, but would be,**

**3. *Using our peace for radical godliness and serious action will lead to more effective evangelism and world missions.***

This last observation is confirmed by the hoped-for outcome Paul mentions. **Paul says that the reason God delights in such peaceful, Godward, serious action is that he “desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”**

[HOW CAN WE EXPECT God’s mercies and favor when we as Christians have used peace to waste our lives on endless entertainment; and we have not seriously given our lives to making God known?]

**IX. BOTTOM LINE FOR CHRISTIANS— NOVEMBER 6, 2012 AND BEYOND!**

**1. Follow Jesus! Fish for men! Build up Saints!**

**2. Political clout is not sufficient for the task at hand!— but PRAY for all in authority and give honor, respect and yieldedness... when such is within the revealed will of God.**

**3. THE GREATEST NEED AND THE MOST POWERFUL WAY TO BE OE EARTHLY GOOD: Revived, Holy Spirit filled Christians, BOLDLY LIVING and boldly preaching the gospel,(in all humility!),is the UNIQUE and powerful need of the hour— until JESUS COMES!**

**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!?”**

**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 November 11, 18, 25**

- 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**

**{{November 18 @ 1:00PM— LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE}}**

- \* We are to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- \* We are to thank God for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- \* We are to respect \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:7).
- \* We are to honor \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17).