

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No.12, March 19, 2013 / 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)

JESUS Came on Exceedingly Serious Business!

... **But you might not know it by looking at the advertisements of many churches**— they are getting ready for Easter. Regardless of the Sunday, all over the land— the DRAWING CARD for attendance is not Jesus and His Cross; and it is certainly not a call to **'Deny self, take up the Cross and follow Jesus!'** As to Easter, American churches and their memberships lead the way in making the following a reality: In 2012, (USA), total annual spending on all Easter-related goods was \$14.6 BILLION; total spending on Easter candy was \$2.1 BILLION! [<http://www.statisticbrain.com/easter-statistics/>]

Once again man's holiday trappings steal undiluted focus away from JESUS CHRIST. It seems that there is a denied, unwritten, but plainly practiced rule: *The Bible is not to be taken seriously or followed or heeded **when the Bible does not support our beloved man created religious traditions and/or practices.***

We must do more than merely give 'lip-service' to Sola Scriptura: "That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, **and is to be interpreted, in its own light, and with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost**, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27), by each individual for himself; with the assistance, though not by the authority, of his fellow Christians. Creeds and confessions, as to form, bind only those who voluntarily profess them, and as to matter, **they bind only so far as they affirm truly what the Bible teaches, and because the Bible does so teach.**" (A. A. Hodge)

"...The Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only infallible rule of faith and practice." (Charles Hodge)

The Word of God clearly reveals that the early Christians 'made much of' the birth, the life, the suffering, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus. However, New Testament Christians DID NOT set up or keep the beloved religious holidays of modern Christendom; nor did they try to overcome pagan culture by attempting to marry and mix culture with genuine Christianity. **WHY DID THE NEW TESTAMENT**

CHRISTIANS not need religious and secular entertainment to draw and to keep them loyal to Jesus Christ?

The earliest converts to Christ had been boldly confronted with the reality that they had by wicked hands crucified and slain JESUS CHRIST! Crushed and stabbed to the heart by Holy Spirit conviction of sin they repented, were born of God, and continued steadfastly in worship, the Word of God, prayer, the LORD'S Supper; and by the time persecution came they all scattered preaching the gospel! (Acts 2:23-47; 4:23-33; 8:4)

Genuine Christians, full of the Holy Spirit, do not desire or need enticement or entertainment.

O HOW FAR WE HAVE FALLEN!

Note: The 'falling' starts when multitudes are in the pews and pulpits of the land who got religion but missed Christ because they missed the starting gate: CONVICTION OF SIN, (John 16:7-11); followed by repentance and faith, all graciously from God, (Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:1-10), which brings about NEW CREATIONS in Christ!

Instead carnal enticements the crystal clear call and example of the New Testament was and is to be BORN AGAIN; and then by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to actually live out the crucified, risen life of Jesus Christ in daily living! Moreover, Jesus left us a command to remember Him by means of the simplicity of the LORD'S SUPPER! The woman at the well, John 4, upon experiencing a saving encounter with Jesus Christ needed no entertainment, to appeal to the flesh to motivate her!

True Christian worship, AS SET FORTH IN THE BIBLE, is not about carnal enjoyment; nor is it to stir up emotional responses to religious presentations/customs born out of the imaginations and/or creativity of man. **Rather, true Christian worship is** a response of praise, submission and obedience to the Great Triune God Himself! He reveals in the Bible how to worship Him in 'spirit and in truth.'

In Christian worship we are BEHOLDING Jesus, (2 Cor. 3:18), and as we do—we are changed, transformed! The more we sit at His feet to KNOW Him, the more we will love Him; and the more **we become like Him!** Therefore, let us receive the following Scriptures and worship, praise, and give thanks to God for SO GREAT SALVATION. As we do, we shall more and more be TRANSFORMED into His likeness!

JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LIVED AND DIED SO AS TO,

1. Propitiate (absorb/satisfy) the just and righteous Wrath of God: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Galatians 3:13) "[JESUS] Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." (Romans 3:25) "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

2. Please His Heavenly Father: "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief:..." (Isaiah 53:10a) "... Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." [a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God] (Eph. 5:2)

3. Learn Obedience and be Perfected: “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8) “For it became Him, [It was fitting that He] for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:10)

4. Achieve His Own Resurrection from the Dead: “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

5. Show the Wealth of God’s Love and Grace for Sinners: “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure [perhaps] for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth [shows, proves] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV) “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

6. Show His Own Love for Us: “Christ hath loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2) “Christ loved the church and hath given Himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God...” (Ephesians 5:25) “[He] loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

7. Cancel the Legal Demands of the Law Against Us: “And you, being dead in your sins... hath He quickened [made alive] together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us [canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands], which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way [set it aside], nailing it to His cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)

8. Become a Ransom for Many: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

9. Provide the Forgiveness of our Sins: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.” (Ephesians 1:7) “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

10. Provide the Basis for our Justification: “We have now been justified by His blood.” (Romans 5:9) “[We] are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:24) “We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” (Romans 3:28)

11. Complete the Obedience that becomes our Righteousness: “Being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8) “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19)

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 “...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ.” (Philippians 3:9)

12. Take Away our Condemnation: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died— more than that, Who was raised— Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us.” (Romans 8:34)

13. Abolish Circumcision and All Rituals as the Basic of Salvation: “But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision... the offense of the cross has been removed.” (Galatians 5:11) “It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.” (Galatians 6:12)

14. Bring Us to Faith and Keep Us Faithful: This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. (Mark 14:24) I will make with them an everlasting covenant...And I will put the fear of Me in their hearts, that they may not turn from Me. (Jeremiah 32:40)

15. Make Us Holy, Blameless, and Perfect: For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14) He has now reconciled (you) in His body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. (Colossians 1:22) Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

16. Give Us a Clear Conscience: How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:14)

17. Obtain For Us All Things that are Good for Us: He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? (Rom. 8:32)

18. Heal Us from Moral and Physical Sickness: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5) (He) healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.” (Matthew 8:16-17)

19. Give Eternal Life to All who Believe on Him: For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

20. Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age: (He) gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. (Galatians 1:4)

21. Reconcile Us to God: For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

22. Bring Us to God: Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. (1 Peter 3:18) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

23. Enable us to Belong to Him: You also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead. (Romans 7:4) You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. (1 Cor.6:19-20) Care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. (Acts: 20:28)

24. Give Us Confident Access to the Holiest Place: We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus. (Heb. 10:19)

25. Become for Us the Place Where We Meet God: Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It had taken forth-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking about the temple of His body. (John 2:19-21)

26. Bring the Old Testament Priesthood to an End and Become the Eternal High Priest: The former priests...were prevented by death from continuing on office, but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them... He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:23-27)

For Christ has entered... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer Himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then He would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world.

But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Heb. 9:24-26) Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. (Heb. 10:11-12)

27. Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 15-16)

28. Free Us from the Futility of Our Ancestry: You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

29. Free Us from the Slavery of Sin: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Rev. 1:5-6 Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. (Hebrews 13:12)

30. Empower us to Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness: He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. (1 Peter 2:24)

31. Enable us to Die to the Law and Bear Fruit for God: You also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. (Romans 7:4)

32. Enable Us to Live for Christ and Not Ourselves: He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him, who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Corinthians 5:15)

33. Make His Cross the Ground of All Our Boasting: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

34. Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

35. Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning: Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

36. Create a People Passionate for Good Works: (He) gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

37. Call Us to Follow His Example of Lowliness and Costly Love: This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrow while suffering unjustly... For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:19-21) Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Heb. 12:3-4)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)

38. Create a Band of Crucified Followers: If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23. Whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. (Matthew 10:38)

39. Free Us from Bondage to the Fear of Death: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

40. Enable us to be with Him Immediately After Death: (He) died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10) To live

is Christ, and to die is gain... I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Philippians 1:21, 23) We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8)

41. Secure Our Resurrection from the Dead: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (Romans 6:5) If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11. If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him. (2 Timothy 2:11)

42. Disarm the Rulers and Authorities: He set aside (the legal brief against us), nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him. Colossians 2:14-15. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

43. Unleash the Power of God in the Gospel: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18) I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

44. Destroy the Hostility Between Races: He... has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Eph. 2:14-16)

45. Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation: Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Rev. 5:9)

46. Gather All His Sheep from Around the World: (Caiaphas) did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. (John 11:51-52) And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16)

47. Rescue Us from Final Judgment: Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. (Hebrews 9:28)

48. Gain His Joy and Ours: For the joy that was set before Him, (He) endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

49. Empower us to be Crowned with Glory and Honor: But we see... Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death. (Hebrews 2:9) And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on

Him the name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:7-9) Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! (Revelation 5:12)

50. Show That the Worst Evil is meant by God for Good: In this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus... both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. (Acts 4:27-28) **[List of 50, edited from John Piper's book, *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*]**

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for March!

1. Ladies Bible Study— 'LORD, HEAL MY HURTS!'— Tuesdays @ 10:30AM! Call— 615-452-5951

2. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! / YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Southside Church building!

3. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH 4. **Saturdays @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study**

Sunday Schedule for March 24, 2013

1. 9:30am- Sunday School

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

3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}

4. 1:00pm Early Afternoon Service

Sunday Schedule for March 31, 2013— RESURRECTION SUNDAY

1. 9:30am- CHURCHWIDE BRUNCH!

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship/Children's Church / LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE

3. NO Noon Fellowship Meal or afternoon service