

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No.26, June 25, 2013 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter**— a weekly Bible Study, plus news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church... sent forth to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide who receive the Newsletter), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

Greetings! I found the following articles deep in my AOL '*mail waiting to be sent*' vault, where I have over 4,000 documents stored. The authors were not listed. Articles are edited.

Grace to all! James Bell

APPROACHING JULY 4 — Thinking about America!

I. THINKING ABOUT Being an American

A few years back, it was claimed that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American— any American. So, then it was claimed, that an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is— so they would know when they found one! **This edition is edited, so as to add critical truth left out in the original!** Edited, additional parts will be **[In brackets!]**

An American is English, French, Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek.

An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arab, Pakistani or Afghan. **An American may also be** a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans. **An American** may be Christian, he could be Jewish, Buddhist or Muslim or atheist! In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as they choose. **An American** is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the "Declaration of Independence" which recognizes the God given right of each person the pursuit of happiness.

[Dig deeper! IN TRUE REALITY, America is America with all of her many blessings because of the sovereign gifts, grace, mercies and purposes of Almighty God!]

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. **Americans** welcome the best -- the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes. But, they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. **I've been told** that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must! Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the recent history of the world.

But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself! Because in an amazing way, Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

[Dig deeper! Here is a far greater and most awesome reality! Sooner or later, all the nations and kingdoms of this world will all crumble— including America. They have all drank very deeply of a very destructive spirit that is deceiving the whole world. Therefore, shocking judgment awaits! The whole world will be absolutely stunned! (Revelation 18) In days ahead, the hearts of many around the world will fail in fear, as a result of their worlds crumbling down! (Luke 21) **Scoff if you like.** They were scoffing in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot. Nevertheless, the wrath of Almighty God came and destroyed them all! (Genesis 7, 19; Matthew 24; Luke 17:26-32; 21) **There is coming a day far more dreadful than the most devastating of all of man's wars— that day is the great day of the wrath of Jesus, the Lamb of God: Revelation 6:12-17 marks just the beginning of it all!** Sure, I understand, we Americans will not tolerate such a subject and reality as "the wrath of God!" We scoff at it and slander it as "Hell fire and Brimstone" preaching... something to be scorned. **NEVERTHELESS: Flee the coming wrath of God! Flee to Christ now! Today is the day of salvation.** We are all just one heartbeat away from an eternity— either in hell or in heaven! Which will it be? **Like it or not, the reality is that Jesus is either a Liar, a Lunatic, or HE IS LORD! JESUS IS LORD!**

Flee to Him today! Then be busy worshiping and serving Him. Such ones will be invincible until Jesus calls them (You!) home!

Don't miss reality: In the midst of a crumbling world, there is ONE NATION far above all others which shall survive and thrive! (1 Peter 2:9) This nation reaches far deeper than any "American spirit of freedom"... For when it is all said and done, this ONE NATION has or will have citizens in every nation, tribe and tongue on the earth! The citizens of this ONE NATION are but sinners from around the globe, all redeemed by the blood and life of Jesus!]

II. Brief American HISTORY NOTES!

1. The First Signers: Did you know that MANY of the 55 signers of The Declaration of Independence were orthodox, deeply committed Christians? Even those who were not believed in the Bible as the divine truth... In fact, the history of the American Bible Society (ABS), established in 1816, follows closely and even intersects the history of our nation. In fact, ABS' early leadership reads like a Who's Who of patriots. The Society's first president was Elias Boudinot, former president of the Continental Congress. John Jay, John Quincy Adams, DeWitt Clinton and James Fennimore Cooper also played significant roles, as did Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, and Francis Scott Key.

2. Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, "Give me liberty or give me death." **HOWEVER, in current textbooks the context of these words is deleted. Here is what he said:**

"An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle sir, is not of the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death." **These sentences have been erased from our textbooks. Was Patrick Henry a Christian?** The following year, 1776, he wrote this "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

2. George Washington, the Father of our Nation, in his farewell speech on September 19, 1796, stated: "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable supporters. Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that our national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." **Was George Washington a Christian? Consider these words from his personal prayer book:** "Oh, eternal and everlasting God, direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit. Daily, frame me more and more in the likeness of thy son, Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time

obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life. Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with the knowledge of thy son, Jesus Christ."

3. Consider these words by John Adams, our second president, who also served as chairman of the American Bible Society. In an address to military leaders he said, "We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and true religion. Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

4. How about our first Court Justice, John Jay? He stated that when we select our national leaders, if we are to preserve our Nation, we must select Christians. "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian Nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

5. John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, was the sixth U.S. President. He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role. On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

6. Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President of the United States reaffirmed this truth when he wrote, "The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

7. In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: "*Whereupon, Resolved,* That the **United States in Congress** assembled, highly **approve** the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, [a Philadelphia printer], as subservient to the interest of religion as well as an instance of the progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied of the care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they **recommend** this edition of the **Bible** to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorise him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper. THE PRINTER, Robert Aitkin: "your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honours that he hath begun and made considerable progress in a neat Edition of the Holy Scriptures **for the use of schools.**"

8. William Holmes McGuffey is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools with over 125 million copies sold until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the "Schoolmaster of the Nation." **Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey:** "The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our notions on character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. From all these extracts from the Bible I make no apology."

9. Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first. **Harvard University,** chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard

Student Handbook rule number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek so that they could study the scriptures: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3; and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of him (Proverbs 2:3)." For over 100 years, more than 50% of all Harvard graduates were pastors!

10. It is clear from history that the Bible and the Christian faith were foundational in our educational and judicial system. However, in 1963, the Supreme Court ruled in *Abington Township School District v. Schempp*, that school-sponsored Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer are unconstitutional. Bible reading was now unconstitutional, though the Bible was quoted 94 percent of the time by those who wrote our constitution and shaped our Nation and its system of education and justice and government. **In 1965**, the Courts denied as unconstitutional the rights of a student in the public school cafeteria to bow his head and pray audibly for his food. **In 1980**, *Stone vs. Graham* outlawed the Ten Commandments in our public schools.

Is it not a permissible objective to allow our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? **James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said this:** "We have staked the whole future of our new nation, not upon the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments." Today we are asking God to bless America. **But how can He bless a Nation that has departed so far from Him?** Most of what you read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country's Christian roots.

III. Yes, all these things are true, but here is a deeper reality!

Ultimately, Sodom was not destroyed by their great sin; but because there were not even 10 righteous men! The length of and the greatness of America's future is not resting upon the Supreme Court, the right President, the Media or political action groups nor upon how wicked the lost people of America are! It is not even dependent upon whether or not prayer is legislated back into the public schools and the Ten Commandments are put back in all the places where they have been taken down.

Shockingly, it is possible that many of the eroding "Christian privileges" are being lost as a result of the judgment of God upon a decadent, sin-laden Church! For Jesus has warned, that if the salt loses its saltiness it is fit for nothing but to be trodden under foot! Because of all the sin in the pulpits and pews of America, **IT REALLY MAKES A LOT MORE "BIBLICAL SENSE" that instead of the Churches lamenting the sinfulness of the pagans that we should rather take Daniel's approach (found in chapter 9) and cry out to God, "WE have sinned..."**

Can you imagine what would happen if instead of debating the pagans on the News Soap Operas— if the real Christians of America and their leaders got totally focused on GETTING THE SIN OUT OF THE CHURCH and focused upon becoming holy, pure, loving, and forgiving!?! **The root problem is not the lack of prayer in public schools,** but the lack of prayer in the supposed Bible believing Churches and homes of America. **The root problem is not the** taking down of the Ten Commandments in public buildings, but the reality that few in the supposed Bible believing Churches and homes of America demonstrate convincing evidence of loving God and loving their neighbors!

Yes, it is easy to point to generic America and cry out that she has turned her back on God; but that is not the deep root problem. The foundational problem is in the supposed Bible believing Churches and homes of America. TRAGICALLY, surveys show that the morality levels of churches and homes (You know, OUR CHURCHES AND HOMES!... US!) are no better than that of the lost pagans. (Thankfully, there are positive exceptions— be among them!)

HERE IS REALITY: We have sinned. We have grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit of God. God is calling you and I to repent. He is calling us to remember from whence we have fallen, to repent and to return to FIRST LOVE FOR CHRIST! And to whatever degree we do, America as a nation will also be well served and blessed! **History has demonstrated again and again that the CHURCH is truly strong- not when she has political clout- but when she is holy, pure and overflowing with the love and forgiveness of Christ and BOLD in confidence in the Gospel being the power of God!**

O, God, I commit to come to the foot of your Cross and become a candidate for revival and usefulness in this generation, to the glory of God!

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for JUNE!

LADIES SUMMER BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS: 7/16; 8/13— Cindy Bell teaching!

- 1. WEDNESDAYS:** PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! YOUTH: 6-8pm
- 2. Thursdays @ 6:30pm:** OUTREACH
- 3. Saturdays @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 30

1. 9:30am- NOTE: CHURCH-WIDE BRUNCH... NO CLASSES... RATHER- BRUNCH AS A TIME OF SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP WITH BOB AND DIANE CANTWELL... This will be their last time with us before moving to North Carolina. (They will be leaving after the Morning Worship hour)

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

3. NO Noon Fellowship Meal & NO 1pm service

4. SPECIAL SERVICES WITH JOHN MACKAY!



The Creation Guy John Mackay

Yes, once again we will be very blessed to have 'The Creation Guy, John Mackay in our midst, **June 30, beginning at 4:30pm:**

WHERE: Southside Baptist Church

WHEN: June 30, 2013 @ 4:30pm-5:30pm and at 6:00pm-7:00pm

Contact: Southside Baptist Church, 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee

Call: 615-452-5951

TOPICS: GOD'S DESIGN! THE EYES HAVE IT! SKEPTICS HAVE LOST THE PLOT!

See the living and fossil evidence this man has collected which he uses to demolish the atheists in debates around the planet. **HOW TO DEFEAT AGGRESSIVE ATHEISM!** Based on Darwinian Evolution, modern atheists are dominating politics, literature, sport and education, and using them to attack Christianity across the globe. Find out how to expose them from a man who defeats them worldwide.

Southside Christian School has a purposed focus— to team up with **Christian families who desire Christian Education. Children need the Home, the Church and the School to model and teach the same philosophy of life. *Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected.*** Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents as to their critical roll.

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 Christian family and local church values?

REALITY— there are growing problems with drugs, immorality, disrespect of authority, and lack of discipline in America. Typical schools teach the godless theory of evolution. Books and materials teaching alternative sexual lifestyles are being required. The religion of Humanism is in and Biblical Christianity is out!

In contrast, at Southside Christian School we proclaim that **Jesus Christ and His wisdom** are central and the best preparation for the real world. **SCS offers** a sound academic education which is integrated with the Word of God.

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

Please call us at: 615-452-5951