

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No.49, December 3, 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."

## MULTI-OPTION STRATEGY TO GET RID OF SIN!

A variety of folks and groups are working 'over-time' to get rid of sin! Their efforts are highly successful and as you will see— that's not good!

### I. Four Reasons Why Multitudes No Longer Believe They Have a SIN problem!

**\*\* 1. Popular preachers are denying or hiding the problem of sin!** Larry King: "You don't call them (those to whom he preaches) sinners?" Joel Osteen: "I don't." Larry King: "Is that a word you don't use?" Joel Osteen: "I don't use it. I never thought about it. But I probably don't... I don't go down the road of condemning." (Joel Osteen, "Larry King live," Aired June 20, 2005)

**CONTRAST:** "And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin." (Matthew 1:21) "And ye know that He [JESUS] was manifested (appeared in human form) to take away our sins." (1 John 3:5) "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save SINNERS; of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15) **By the way,** the word 'SIN' occurs HUNDREDS of times in the Bible! **ALERT:** According to Joel Osteen and others like him— the Bible, the Angel of the LORD, Jesus, and the Apostle Paul ALL GO DOWN THE ROAD OF CONDEMNING!

**TRUE REALITY:** The Christian's message is not condemnation, **but the way out of** ALREADY being under HOLY AND JUST condemnation. In John 3:18, **Jesus says:** "He that believeth on

him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

**\*\* 2. Many in modern psychology have re-named sin as Mental Disorders.** While Joel Osteen and other preachers minimize sin and won't speak the word 'sin' and do not refer to folks in the congregation as sinners— there is a much larger army of false prophets who are deceiving people the world over in a different way. **BEHAVIORS which are clearly defined by the Holy Spirit in the Bible as being sin— they re-name and 'package' these sinful behaviors as MENTAL DISORDERS.** Then they manufacture psychotropic drugs and sell them as the solution to **PROBLEMS OF BEHAVIOR.** Unsuspecting and unsaved multitudes are being enslaved by being 'tagged' for life with various Mental Disorders; and they are being legally drugged into drug addicts. Moreover, throughout the land a growing number of 'Evangelical and Bible-believing' pastors and church members are lapping up these drugs like eating candy. They are quite content to have a high sounding psychological name placed on their negative behavior and to be given a pill as the solution.

**Can these drugs manipulate feelings, emotions, various body chemical levels, and give RELIEF? Of course!** Sometimes. For a while. Complications do arise— not the least of which is a growing refusal to take responsibility for behavior; and a growing spiritual dullness; and a deepening dependency upon more and more drugs. **NOTE: If you or someone you know is having some temporary relief from a drug being taken to help with behaviors like those listed in Galatians 5:19-21— BY ALL MEANS urgently and simultaneously FLEE to Christ and his cross! Hide God's Word in your heart! IT IS LIKELY THAT YOU WILL FIND A VERY HELPFUL and free online Bible Study at the following website: [www.settingcaptivesfree.com](http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com) GO THERE and start taking a course immediately. [Also, see 'URGENT' at end of section]**

These 'manufactured' mental disorders or mental illnesses which **USED TO BE** and in God's sight still are **BEHAVIORAL SINS**, are set forth in a book called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, (DSM). The *DSM-I*, from 1952, listed 106; DISORDERS. The *DSM-III*, from 1980, listed 265. The *DSM-IV* has 297. The total number of disorders in the new *DSM-5*, as I understand it, also has 297 disorders. It has 15 new disorders; but some of the previous disorders are now 'subtypes' of other disorders.

**REALITY: The DSM is the 'Bible' of psychiatry. Behaviors are observed, discussed, described, given a name, VOTED ON; and the behaviors with enough votes get put in the latest DSM.** The unsuspecting patient is asked a lot of questions, some behavior is observed; and then a diagnosis is given and drugs prescribed based on matching up with the DSM.

**THANKFULLY, at least some Psychiatrists are coming forward to tell the truth about Mental Illnesses and the drugs Psychiatrists are prescribing:**

a. "There are no objective tests in psychiatry - no X-ray, laboratory, or exam finding that says definitively that someone does or does not have a mental disorder." "there is no definition of a mental disorder." "It's bull—. I mean, you just can't define it." — *Allen Frances, Psychiatrist and former DSM-IV Task Force Chairman*

b. "Virtually anyone at any given time can meet the criteria for bipolar disorder or ADHD. Anyone. And the problem is everyone diagnosed with even one of these 'illnesses' triggers the pill dispenser." — *Dr. Stefan Kruszewski, Psychiatrist*

c. "Despite more than two hundred years of intensive research, no commonly diagnosed psychiatric disorders have proven to be either genetic or biological in origin, including schizophrenia, major depression, manic-depressive disorder, the various anxiety disorders, and childhood disorders such as attention-deficit hyperactivity. At present there are no known biochemical imbalances in the brain of typical psychiatric patients— until they are given psychiatric drugs." — *Peter Breggin, Psychiatrist*

d. While "there has been no shortage of alleged biochemical explanations for psychiatric conditions...not one has been proven. Quite the contrary. In every instance where such an imbalance was thought to have been found, it was later proven false." — *Dr. Joseph Glenmullen, Harvard Medical School psychiatrist*

e. "We do not have an independent, valid test for ADHD, and there are no data to indicate ADHD is due to a brain malfunction." — *Final statement of the panel from the National Institutes of Health Consensus Conference on ADHD*

f. **"The way things get into the DSM is not based on blood test or brain scan or physical findings. It's based on descriptions of behavior.** And that's what the whole psychiatry system is." — *Dr Colin Ross, Psychiatrist*

g. **"Psychiatry has never been driven by science.** They have no biological or genetic basis for these illnesses and the National Institutes of Mental Health are totally committed to the pharmacological line. ... There is a great deal of scientific evidence that stimulants cause brain damage with long-term use, yet there is no evidence that these mental illnesses, such as ADHD, exist." — *Peter Breggin, Psychiatrist*

h. "There's no biological imbalance. When people come to me and they say, 'I have a biochemical imbalance,' I say, 'Show me your lab tests.' There are no lab tests. So what's the biochemical imbalance?" — *Dr. Ron Leifer, Psychiatrist*

i. **"No behavior or misbehavior is a disease or can be a disease.** That's not what diseases are. Diseases are malfunctions of the human body, of the heart, the liver, the kidney, the brain. **Typhoid fever is a disease. Spring fever is not a disease;** it is a figure of speech, a

metaphoric disease. All mental diseases are metaphoric diseases, misrepresented as real diseases and mistaken for real diseases." — *Thomas Szasz, Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus*

j. **"DSM-IV is the fabrication** upon which psychiatry seeks acceptance by medicine in general. Insiders know it is more a political than scientific document... DSM-IV has become a bible and a money making bestseller—its major failings notwithstanding."— *Loren Mosher, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry*

k. "In short, **the whole business of creating psychiatric categories of 'disease,'** formalizing them with consensus, and subsequently ascribing diagnostic codes to them, which in turn leads to their use for insurance billing, **is nothing but an extended racket furnishing psychiatry a pseudo-scientific aura.** The perpetrators are, of course, feeding at the public trough."— *Dr. Thomas Dorman, internist and member of the Royal College of Physicians of the UK*

l. "Unlike medical diagnoses that convey a probable cause, appropriate treatment and likely prognosis, **the disorders listed in DSM-IV [and ICD-10] are terms arrived at through peer consensus.**"— *Tana Dineen Ph.D., psychologist*

m. "It's not science. **It's politics and economics.** That's what psychiatry is: politics and economics. Behavior control, it is not science, it is not medicine."— *Thomas Szasz, Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus*

[**REALITY:** 70 percent of *DSM-5* task-force members have financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry. We are talking about an \$84 BILLION drug industry to treat supposed diseases that were created by a voting show of hands!]

**URGENT:** Most psychiatric drugs can cause withdrawal reactions, sometimes including life-threatening emotional and physical withdrawal problems. In short, it is not only dangerous to *start* taking psychiatric drugs, it can also be dangerous to *stop* them. Withdrawal from psychiatric drugs should be done carefully under experienced clinical supervision. Methods for safely withdrawing from psychiatric drugs are discussed in Dr. Breggin's books, [\*Brain-Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry: Drugs, Electroshock and the Psychopharmaceutical Complex\*](#) (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2008) and [\*Medication Madness: The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in Cases of Violence, Suicide and Crime\*](#) (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008). [Click here: PETERBREGGIN.COM](#)  
<http://www.peterbreggin.com/>

**BOTTOM LINE:** Much of the Psychological Industry is all about a blatant **DENIAL OF SIN** and the consequences of sin. **MILLIONS** are being deceived. The lives and eternity of multitudes are being endangered.

**\*\* 3. *The theory of evolution is also all about the denial of God and sin.***

**\*\* 4. CLOSE TO HOME FOR ALL OF US** and hitting even those who would never listen to the Joel Osteens of the world and those who do not embrace being drugged by Psychiatrists and those who are deeply committed creationists— "HOW MANY spoken or unspoken LAME excuses did I make this past week... all seeking to deny my sin and my responsibility for my sin? How many Smoke-screens did I send out; how much 'blame-shifting' did I do— RATHER THAN take FULL RESPONSIBILITY for my attitudes, words and actions?"

The above four reasons why multitudes no longer believe they have a SIN problem are deadly! Here is the REALITY connection: No one ever sees or values or experiences the beauty, the power, the impact, and the life transformation that comes from the amazing wonder of the BIRTH OF CHRIST WITHOUT FIRST seeing and owning up to personal sin! BEWARE of anyone or anything that would move you even in the slightest away from OWNING UP TO THE ROOT PROBLEMS OF SIN!

## II. THE POWER AND DEADLINESS OF SIN!

BECAUSE OF SIN human relationships tend toward strife, greed, selfishness, LUSTS, and/or hate. BECAUSE OF SIN, EVERY PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD HAS BEEN BROKEN! Sin has left every human under the just and holy wrath of God. It is SIN that BRINGS WORLDWIDE CHAOS. IT IS SIN THAT DESTROYS HOMES AND EVEN CHURCHES. The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death."

WE SHOULD BE exceedingly grateful that GOD SENT JESUS TO EARTH TO deal with THE SIN PROBLEM! WHEN WE look at the birth of Christ— we must understand that AT the heart of THE BIRTH OF CHRIST is the ugliness of sin! **Many years ago Thomas Guthrie wrote of sin:**

"Who is the painted temptress that steals our virtue? Who is the murderess that destroys our life? Who is this sorceress that first deceives and then damns our souls? Sin. Who with icy breath blights the fair blossoms of youth? Who breaks the hearts of parents? Who brings old men gray hairs with sorrow to the grave? Sin. Who changes gentle children into snakes, tender mothers into monsters and their fathers into worse than Herod's, the murderers of their own innocence? Sin. Who cast the apple of discord on household hearts? Who lights the torch of war and bears it blazing over trembling lands? Who by division in the church rends Christ's seamless robe? Sin. Who is this Delilah that sings the Nazarite asleep and delivers up the strength of God into the hands of the uncircumcised? Who with smiles on her face, honeyed flattery on her tongue, stands in the door to offer the sacred rites of hospitality and when suspicion sleeps, treacherously pierces our temples with a nail? SIN!

What fair seductresses is this who is seated on a rock by a deadly pool; who smiles to deceive, sings to lure, kisses to betray and flings her arm round our neck to leap with us into perdition? Sin. Who turns the soft and gentlest heart to stone? Who hurls reason from her lofty throne and impels sinners mad as a Gadarene swine down the precipice into a lake of fire? Sin."

**These things being true: Why do we love sin? Why do we JOKE about sin? Why do we joke about others who have been slain by sin? GOD DOES NOT LAUGH AT SIN! GOD'S WORD DOES NOT HIDE THE UGLINESS THAT BROUGHT JESUS TO EARTH! If we are going to REJOICE in the birth of Christ we cannot hide the UGLINESS of sin!**

### **III. MORE ABOUT SIN and What SIN DOES!**

Sin defiles: 1 Kings 8:38 the sin of man's heart is compared to oozing sores of a deadly plague. Zechariah 3:3, sin is compared to filthy garments. 2 Corinthians 7:1 calls it "filthiness of the flesh and spirit." Sin is rebellion; FOR SIN is the transgression of the HOLY LAW! Sin is ingratitude. Matthew 5:45, says of God, "He makes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and He makes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust." He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. Sin is humanly incurable! Jeremiah 13:23, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?" The answer to that rhetorical question is, NO! Sin is the incurable leprosy of the soul: It can NOT be legislated out; philosophized out; psychologized out; wished out; pushed out by self-effort; nor can IT BE CURED BY RELIGION! Only JESUS Christ can cure sin.

LET US BE REMINDED that sin is hated by God: God does not resist a man because he's poor... OR rich or educated. God does not resist PEOPLE because they are ignorant or crippled or ill or despised by the world or limited in ability or because they seem to have little to offer. **There's only one thing that alienates a person from God and that is sin.** WHY? HERE'S WHY: "God is holy; and the sinner is sinful! THEREFORE, how can God and a sinner be brought together in fellowship, in the same family? 1. Only when sin is eliminated. 2. Sin's penalty must be paid. 3. Sin's power must be broken. And that is done by the work of Jesus Christ who came to save sinners.

**MOREOVER, SIN IS HARD WORK**: Jeremiah 9:5, "They weary themselves committing iniquity." Prov. 13:15, "**THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD!**" The REALITY of sin is that it is a GRINDING, BINDING, BLINDING SLAVERY! ARE YOU DRIVEN BY LUST, PORN, ANGER, BITTERNESS, GREED, GLUTTONY, DRUGS, SELFISHNESS, PRIDE, OR SOME OTHER ADDICTIVE HABIT? MANY ARE DRIVEN FOR STUFF AND BLINDED TO NEED OF THEIR SOUL! Matt. 24:37-39. It happened in Noah's day; and it is common today. ARE YOU ADDICTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY TO STUFF??

**WORST OF ALL: Sin makes a person an object of God's wrath.** (Ephesians 2:3) - Sin makes humans the heirs of God's wrath. In Revelation chapter 20 it says in the end at the Great White Throne Judgment, the Lord will gather all the unbelieving and cast them into the lake of fire that burns forever. Spurgeon said, "**Man is hanging over the mouth of hell by a solitary plank and the plank is rotten.**" And that is the **ULTIMATE UGLINESS OF SIN!**

**IV. Yes, the sinner is a SLAVE.** Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. Man is overpowered by evil. SIN brings THE HUMAN RACE under the dominance of Satan. People think that they're free. We say they're free spirits.

**HERE'S REALITY: The only free person is one who has had his sin covered BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST; and is free AND EMPOWERED BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT to do what is right.** A LOST sinner is not free. He is under the total domination of sin and the control of Satan. Ephesians 2:2— the Holy Spirit reveals that the sinner walks in his daily conduct according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit working in the children of disobedience. Satan is at work. He is in control. **Only, if JESUS makes you free are you free. THUS,**

**V. The beauty of THE BIRTH OF CHRIST is that Christ came into the world to save sinners.** NO ONE can understand or experience the beauty of CHRIST'S BIRTH without seeing, and owning the ugliness of SIN! The beauty of Christ's birth is that Christ came to cure the ugliness of SIN. **Unless you understand the ugliness of your own sin YOU WILL NEVER embrace Jesus Christ who alone by His death and resurrection can save you from that sin.** JESUS CAME TO BE A SAVIOR OF SINNERS. THE JOY OF THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN IS: "**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**" (1 Timothy 1:15)

**DO YOU NEED TO FLEE TO CHRIST! "O GOD, I AM A SINNER!"**

"**BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER... HERE ARE ALL THE KEYS TO MY HEART... INCLUDING EVERY CLOSET!**" "**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**"

**You may be a Christian and LIKE KING DAVID OF OLD—** there is some REPENTING to do! JESUS comes once to save, but daily He keeps us clean: Psalm 52; 32. {Some of the concepts of this message are drawn from a message I read many years ago by John MacArthur, on the UGLINESS OF SIN.}

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)