

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 40, No.11, March 18, 2014** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter** is a weekly Bible Study, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), 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.”***

## Music and SINGING unto the LORD in Worship!

***“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?...  
When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God  
shouted for joy?”*** (Job 38:4, 7)

In Job, chapters 38 through 42, **God asks Job about forty questions!** The verses above are among the first of those awesome questions. CONSIDER THIS: As the story of creation is unveiled in Genesis— God simply proclaimed again and again, ***“It is good!”*** But as we learn in Job 38:4, 7— all the angels responded to God’s grand creative acts with ***SINGING AND SHOUTING FOR JOY!*** And for SO SMALL REASON!! Read: Psalm 19:1-6!

MOREOVER, DURING the Creation Week, prior to Lucifer’s rebellion, the universe was united in perfect harmony. There was not one dissenting voice! Lucifer and all other angelic beings ***SANG TOGETHER AND SHOUTED FOR JOY*** when God set in motion the laying of the earth’s foundation! **CONSIDER:** One of the implications of Scripture is that **singing/music presented in praise to God** was the chief occupation of Lucifer prior to his fall!

Many believe that the Ezekiel 28 prophecy about *the prince of Tyrus* is giving us a primary revelation about Lucifer. Verses 13-17, especially seem to refer to one far greater than a mere human prince. **IF Ezekiel 28 is indeed** a revelation concerning Lucifer, then he had a role of

leadership in heaven's MUSIC! **But regardless and without question**, angelic beings are seen thorough out Scripture SOUNDING FORTH PRAISE and **MUSIC** in joyful worship of Almighty God. This was Lucifer's **former** occupation!

**The last book of the Bible, THE REVELATION**, rolls back the curtains of heaven and we see and hear **angelic beings continuously resounding with grand music of praise** to God Almighty and to the Lamb! **WHEN** Jesus came to earth, "*a multitude of the heavenly hosts*" were **praising God!** (Luke 2:13-14) **WHEN** Isaiah saw the LORD in a vision, the seraphim were crying out PRAISE to God! (Isaiah 6:1-4)  
**WHAT'S THE POINT?**

MUSIC and the WORSHIP of God go together! The Bible reveals very clearly that **MUSIC is a creation of God for the purpose of PRAISE to GOD!**

**IN FACT, THERE IS** NO revelation in the Bible as to any other purpose of music! Based on Biblical evidence, music was NOT CREATED for the purpose of secular entertainment and/or for the purpose of personal pleasure! **MUSIC WAS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WORSHIP OF THE ALMIGHTY, TRIUNE GOD!**

**REMEMBER:** Lucifer was skilled in the worship of God through music! However, at some point Lucifer began to desire worship for himself. **In arrogance and pride he rebelled, (Isaiah 14:13-14).** Tragically, a full one third of the angelic hosts joined Lucifer's rebellion. Thus, God kicked satan and these fallen angels out of heaven. **Their sphere of influence became and is to this day upon the earth.** (Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:3, 7-9)

**WHAT'S THE POINT?** Lucifer (now satan) and the fallen angels were originally created with musical giftedness which they used day and night in praise to God. However, they rebelled against God. They are now working in the sphere of the earth. **THEY STILL HAVE THEIR PRIMARY GIFTEDNESS— MUSIC! But obviously**, they would not use it for the purpose of praise to God! **Obviously**, they now use all of their abilities, (including musical ability), to generate worship for Lucifer or satan! It is critically important to understand that **Lucifer knows, understands, and uses the power of music!**

**WAKE-UP CALL:** By the means of "the music of the world" satan stirs the

masses physically, emotionally, and spiritually for his own selfish and evil purposes!

**1. Music that is not** composed, presented, and in tune with the purpose for which God created music **cannot be void of impact!** **Music that does not** lead one to worship, honor and serve Almighty God, must of necessity (sooner or later) lead one down a path of (1) Turning away from God; (2) Growing cold toward God; (3) Rebelling against God; and/or (4) Even of worshipping satan himself. **Lucifer and the fallen angels inspire 'fallen music' to create worship for the fallen Lucifer! You may SCOFF at such a thought; but many musicians have openly confessed this reality!**

**2. Remember:** Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world, if Jesus would only worship him! Satan is not limited to one strategy. However, as an ex-angelic and ex-heavenly musician, without question satan inspires music of many different stripes as he seeks to divert worship from God to himself!

**3. Satan has counterfeited music! The airwaves of the world are filled with music— but not in praise to God!** There is music for every age group, every taste, and every culture. It is music that promotes the world and the flesh. Satan is behind any music, including much religious music that **does not** move us to worship, adore, and serve Almighty God and the Lamb! **Satan does not care what "flavor" of music you or I embrace— just so long as the music we choose does not openly and positively glorify God and the Lamb!**

## **Music is powerful!**

- 1. Music** communicates ideas and thoughts.
- 2. Music** can write these ideas and thoughts into our subconscious mind.
- 3. Music** can promote good or evil.
- 4. Music** is used in our modern world to stimulate sales in stores, to regulate the speed of your eating at restaurants, to increase work production and much more.
- 5. As you listen to music, though you are not aware of it,** your entire body, including your nervous system, is constantly reacting to the sound. Variations in pitch, rhythmic patterns, tempo, and volume will affect pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration and the function of various glands. These in turn will influence or even create a

mood or elicit a  
physical response.

**6. Some music** can make you relax and help bring feelings of peace and contentment.

**7. Other music** can invite frustration, nervousness and even depression. All of this comes as  
an automatic, subconscious response to music.

**8. God anointed musicians and their music** can dismiss demonic spirits. (1 Sam. 16:23)

**9. Music that FITS WELL WITH** sin and rebellion is satan anointed. (Exodus 32:1-18)

**MUSIC IS POWERFUL!** Different musical sounds effect different parts of the body. A high pitch can cause the larynx of the listener to tighten. Listening to marching music is bound to bring on some foot tapping! **You may be unaware of the evil powers of the world's music, but many producers of such music are not!** Mike Quatro, a producer of Rock Concerts, said, *"Rock motivates you internally, gives you a sensual feeling. A girl can be turned on by the music. It releases her inhibitions. The beat of the drum has always been a factor. A girl realizes her own sexuality through the music."* **The Beatles, mild by today's rock music, said,** *"Our music is capable of causing emotional instability, disorganized behavior, rebellion, and even revolution."*

Some years back ***Amazing Grace, O Happy Day, and The Lord's Prayer*** were put in rock music renditions. They were played on rock stations with much acceptance! In fact, they were near the top of the charts for weeks with no one calling in being offended at the words of the songs! **Why no offense?** The rock music over-powered, masked, and hid the words of the songs. Such would not have been the case with these three songs sung and played traditionally! Rolling Stone, the rock magazine, praised Bob Dylan's 1980 album, *"Slow Train Coming"* as one of his best. **But what about the religious content in songs on this album?** The magazine said: ***"The words finally don't matter after all."*** Our secular culture does not mind (They even love!) "Christian Songs" that are set to various secular sounds, especially rock! Why? **Because they know that the music overpowers, masks, and hides the words!**

**When we combine holy/godly words with fleshly, secular sounds we produce confusion.** What is a secular sound? That's an easy question! **Just take a little "field trip" to flesh-feeding concerts, bars, night clubs; and you will get an ear full! There is a reason**

they won't be playing a 'traditional' Church rendition of, ***“What Can Wash Away My Sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*** ***BECAUSE:*** *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* (Galatians 5:17)

**Whether it is music or something else, the idea of getting as close as we can to the world is not Biblical. There is a difference between the holy and the profane.** But sadly, in music and in preaching today, it is very popular to let people keep their worldly ways plus promise them heaven! Moreover, those who want to sound like the world, commonly write words to match their new sound! **Thus, much of the modern contemporary 'Christian' music has deleted a lot of the words that have characterized hymns, spiritual songs and Psalms of the past— words like redemption, salvation, the blood of Christ, the cross, repentance, and a profuse amount of references to the various attributes and names of Holy God, etc.** In contrast, all of these grand words fill godly Christian songs.

**To read the words of a song by Fanny Crosby, Charles Wesley, Isaac Watts, or by John Newton is almost like reading Scripture, because their songs are so God focused!** In contrast, a lot of modern 'Christian' music tends to dwell more on us humans, our lives, our fears, problems, and how we feel— rather than dwelling on Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The names of God are often totally absent from modern 'Christian' songs— they are man centered, me-centered, and flesh appealing.

## **Are There Any Helpful Guidelines for Godly Music?**

- 1. The first principle of above all else is— PLEASING GOD!**
- 2.** Godly music can be loud but never lewd! (Psalm 100) Godly music can be joyful and jubilant— but not jesting! (Ephesians 5:4)
- 3.** Godly music must never overshadow the message or the words of the song! All through the Bible, **God has preserved** the wonderful words to many songs of praise to God. **God has not preserved a single tune to which the songs were sung!** **In the Bible we find praise to God accompanied by** Bells, Brass, Cornets, Cymbals, Dulcimer, Flute, Harps (Harps are even found in heaven!), Organ, Pipes, Psaltery, Ram's Horns, Sackbut, Sheminith, Tabrets, Timbrels, Trumpets, and Viols! **But not a single piece of music, not even one tune was preserved!** The WORDS of praise are primary AND MUST NOT be overshadowed by flesh appealing sounds nor by a carnal 'performance' mentality.

4. Godly music will not violate any principle or truth found in I Corinthians 13; James 3:13-18; Philippians 4:8; I John 2:15-17. Godly music and the words of a psalm, hymn or spiritual song will not be in “spirit vs. flesh” conflict. (Galatians 5:17)!

**REMEMBER:** A God-saturated life can/will produce and present music that overcomes demons! A Self-saturated life can/will produce and perform music to match rebellion against God. (1 Sam. 16:23; Exodus 32:1-18)

5. **With Godly music** the words will be doctrinally in line with the Bible. The focus will be God-centered, God-glorifying, and not man-centered. The music will fit the words according to concepts of Galatians 5:17; Godly music will draw attention and praise to God. Godly music will edify and build you up to live a holy, Christ-honoring life. **An excellent example** is the “Song of Moses” (Exodus 15) and the “Song of Moses and the Lamb” (Revelation 15:3-4). These songs, (as are the songs throughout the Psalms), are often dealing with historical situations where various people are much involved. **However, the predominant emphasis is always that of profuse praise to God Almighty! All Praise to God and to the Lamb! [No praise to the singers! No praise to the ‘musical sounds!’]**

**\*\*\* SHOULDN'T OUR MUSIC TASTES AND PRACTICES BE  
DOMINATED BY MUSIC WHICH CLEARLY OFFERS PRAISE TO GOD?**

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**GOD LOVES MUSIC!** This comes as no surprise, because God created music for the purpose of giving unto Himself the worship and praise that is due Him! He is Almighty God. He does not need to be praised in order to help His self image! He is not depressed. Our praise does not add anything to Him. **It is simply that He is God! He is worthy.** And when we praise Him by means of music and song, we are giving unto God the praise of which He is worthy. And by the way, such God centered praise **will build us up in the most holy faith!** And such experiences bring even more praise unto His holy name!

**SO, the Word of God cries out, “...COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING.”** (Psalm 100, Psalm 95, 96) *“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, **He will joy over thee with singing!**”* (Zephaniah 3:17) **God loves music!** Most often the music revealed in Scripture revolves around the Story of Redemption and the glories of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **Thus, Christian, it is no surprise that**

**God rejoices over you, a trophy of His grace!** In fact, Jesus, (who is in the midst of His churches, Rev. 1-3), sings praises to God! (Hebrews 2:12)  
**Godly Music Can Move God To Manifest Himself!** (2 Chronicles 5:11-14)

**In the world**, a concert may be looked upon as secular or “Christian” but in either case, the music is VERY OFTEN sung and/or played so as to entertain the listener. **Talent is showcased. Music “stars” are created! Musicians are thronged and worshipped!** It’s really no mystery as to why a fair number of “music stars” started their careers in church! They were praised, folks CLAPPED AND CLAPPED and shouted their accolades to THEM; rather than being moved to PRAISING GOD with responses of ‘AMEN! PRAISE THE LORD! Hallelujah! HALLELUJAH! **Sadly, instead of being schooled in the true worship of God, it was in church that they first got their EGO STROKED as they were praised for their talent in a church service!**

**Godly music is never about** showing off talent or about entertaining. Godly music is all about worshipping God, praising Him, pleasing Him; and about ministering unto Him. (Exodus 28:41)

With Christian music, there is no place for the fleshly show and exaltation of “artists” or “stars”. Rather, music is to be done for the glory of God and presented as humble and holy service to God. ***For it is not talent or giftedness that brings the manifest presence of God or that breaks the yoke of sin and sets the captives free— RATHER, IT IS THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*** (Zec. 4:6)

LET US ALL meditate deeply upon these Scriptures, **for when sanctified servants of God play and/or sing music— God shows up!** (2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Joshua 6:2-5, 15,20; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30; 1 Chron. 25:1,3,6,7; 1 Samuel 10:5-6; 2 Kings 3:15-16a; Psalm 22:3; 1 Cor. 14:1-3; Acts 16:25-26)

And, as some of the above Scriptures show, the capacity to hear and receive specific and relevant truth from God is also greatly enhanced by the awesome power of Godly music!

## **Godly Music and Spiritual Warfare!**

In spiritual warfare we know that we are to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-12) and bring every thought into captivity to the

obedience of Jesus Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). **But in Psalm 149:1-9, we have a scene of giving praise to God with high volume and with authority.** The specific occasion of this prophetic Psalm is when Messiah comes back to punish all evil doers! **Yes, that will be a time for great praise to God! (See Rev. 16:1-7)**

**A present application for us is this:** Let us go forth as strong **'PRAISERS'** of God into the many spiritual battles which we face! **Music and the SHOUT of victory tumbled the walls of Jericho!**

**LET US CONSIDER WELL:** Till Jesus comes, such up front praise will still do wonders against all manner of walls of spiritual opposition! In fact, throughout the history of the church during times when the saints of God have been persecuted and even put to death— GODLY MUSIC in PRAISE TO GOD was critical to being empowered to stand fast in the faith without fear or compromise.

**When Jehosaphat,** (2 Chronicles 20:1-30), was surrounded by enemies on every side, he cried out to God, *"We don't know what to do; but our eyes are on you, LORD!"* The desperately needed wisdom came from one of the anointed singers unto the LORD!

What was the Word of God for that critical hour?— put the Choir out in front of the army and have them singing, ***"Praise the LORD; for His mercy endureth forever!"*** And when this music began to sound forth, GOD SHOWED UP and smote the enemy! **\*\*\*Please understand:** The world's music would not have helped!\*\*\*

**Modern 'Christian' rock or contemporary concerts and/or Southern Gospel entertainment** (All mixed in with plenty of jokes from 'christian comedians' because the entertainers want to show that it is fun to be a Christian!)— Listening to such performances from these kinds of favorite stars would not have done the job! Sadly, much normal church music would not have helped much either. **WHY? BECAUSE, FOR GOD TO SHOW UP IN MIGHTY DELIVERANCE POWER, there must be, "SINGERS UNTO THE LORD", who from their hearts Praise the Beauty of God's holiness!**

**The Issue Is Always Worship! And Our Music Has a Way of Matching the WHO or WHAT We Really Worship!** (Exodus 32:15-18) *PLEASE Read those verses carefully!* **REMEMBER: Joshua, who had not been trained in Egypt as Moses had, thought the sounds**

***were sounds like the torment and horror of war!* HOWEVER, MOSES KNEW it was the noise of singing— Israel had music to match their sin! My music reveals and matches my heart!**

**Question: *Is “my music” an evidence of New Birth, of Revival, of loving and worshipping God— OR, is my music a sign of backsliding or even lostness?***

**REALITY: “MY MUSIC” MOVES ME!— EITHER TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPPING AND SERVING ALMIGHTY GOD... OR TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPPING AND SERVING THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL!**

*[A number of sources used in writing this article, including, **Satan’s Music Exposed**, by Lowell Hart; **The Rebirth of Music** by LeMar Boschman; **Doorways to Discipleship** by Winkie Pratney; **Jesus Person Maturity Manuel** by David Wilkerson]*

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

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

**TUESDAYS: Come and sing with us every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Any questions contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.**

**\*\*\* WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! NOTE:** Jody Allen is ministering to young Children, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service.

**YOUTH GROUP: Wednesdays 6-8pm...** led by Byron Smith\_

**➔ THURSDAY: MARCH 20, 11:00AM— LADIES BIBLE STUDY**  
— led by Cindy Bell

**\*\*\*SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!\*\*\***

## **REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 23, 30**

- 1. 9:30am- Sunday School → Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship**
- 2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church**
- 3. Noon:** Fellowship 'covered-dish' Meal together!
- 4. 1:00pm-** Early afternoon Service, in the Fellowship Hall

### **SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL!**

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