

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No.15, April 15, 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."**

THE BATTLE OF PRIDE vs HUMILITY!

"The worship and the 'gods' to which men are faithful evolve out of their own hearts, please their own nature, and make no demands out of harmony with their own carnal desires. Whenever you find people rejecting Divine revelation it is not because they did not understand what God set forth but because they did but were unwilling to humble themselves and obey God." (Edited from, G. Campbell Morgan, commentary on Jeremiah) NOTE: Morgan is NOT referring to outright pagans; but to those who were supposed to be the people of God. **Ultimately the battle is one of Pride vs Humility!** Today in all the issues of life and living, the question I face is— shall I humble myself and yield to the Word of God or shall I lean to my own understanding, exalting my human pride?

HUMAN PRIDE WORSHIP: In Genesis 4— **Cain's worship was creative and impressive! He was certainly impressed with it! Israel's worship (Isaiah 1:10-20) was creative, expressive, and impressive! Aaron (Exodus 32:1-6) led Israel in a very creative worship service which the masses loved.** God was not impressed! In each case the worshippers UNDERSTOOD what God desired— but they were unwilling to humble themselves and simply obey God. **"The worship and the 'gods' to which men are faithful evolve out of their own hearts, please their own nature, and make no demands out of harmony with their own carnal desires."**

WHAT ABOUT TODAY? Are we beyond the tragic pride of Cain, Aaron, and/or ancient Israel? Do we need to hear the LORD'S word to Saul—

“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in OBEYING THE VOICE of the LORD?” (1 Samuel 15:22)

FOR EXAMPLE: Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, **Service of Darkness or Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday**, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays and/or Easter Sunday! **These are all** religious customs and traditions WHICH ARE BELOVED and DEFENDED by millions! **However, none of these were ever REVEALED BY GOD and/or practiced in the New Testament Church in any shape form or fashion!**

AS TO Cain, Aaron, Saul, Israel, and/or Israel in the days of Isaiah— none of these could care less as to whether or not their worship was based on Divine Revelation. It was what pleased them. That's all that mattered. Again, the words of G. Campbell Morgan are in order: “The worship and the ‘gods’ to which men are faithful evolve out of their own hearts, please their own nature, and make no demands out of harmony with their own carnal desires. **Whenever you find people rejecting Divine revelation** it is not because they did not understand what God set forth but because they did but were unwilling to humble themselves and obey God.”

How did the New Testament Church respond to the death and resurrection of Christ? The New Testament Christians commemorated the death and the resurrection of Christ by observing the LORD'S SUPPER in profound simplicity: **1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Jesus had said,**

“...This Do in Remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22:19) In childlike faith and obedience the early Christians simply did as Jesus instructed.

In addition, the New Testament Church gloried in and were **daily being transformed by the Cross and the Resurrection. Paul testified:**

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)

"... God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the CROSS of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world!" (Galatians 6:14, Phillips Paraphrase)

THIS IS REALLY, REALLY TRUE:

The true Christian life does not float along from religious production to religious production. Rather, the true Christian life is all about real and personal CRUCIFIXION and RESURRECTION!

BEING 'CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST' [the way of Humility] is not expressed in man-made worship rituals; but in daily living where I die to myself, take up my cross daily, and follow Jesus!

THEREFORE: Let us hear the Word of the LORD:

"This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My Word." (Isaiah 66:2b) Or as James 4:6 tells us, ***"God... gives grace to the humble."*** **I MUST REMEMBER: In all the issues of life and living, ultimately the battle is one of Pride vs Humility!**

And so today: Be it in how I remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and/or be it in how (in some arena of daily living) I am called upon to *'deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow Jesus!'*— Shall I humble myself and yield to the Word of God or shall I lean to my own understanding, exalt my human pride, and insist on my way?

The Battle of 'Pride vs Humility' in the daily issues of life:

WHAT DO I NEED HELP WITH TODAY? "LORD, I need help with my spouse! You would not believe what he/she is doing, how he/she is acting toward me!"

Based upon Scripture, I can expect the following application from the Holy Spirit to such a request: **"Your request is full of pride. God resists the proud. God will resist you!"**

REALITY: The way of humility is not to first point out the 'real or imagined' faults of others... but to clean up our own act and be ready to live supernaturally: Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 12:14-21; etc.

WHAT DO WE NEED HELP WITH TODAY? “LORD, we want to have the grandest of all worship celebrations so as to draw crowds!”

Based upon Scripture, I can expect the Holy Spirit to point me to Scripture, revealing to me this reality:

‘YOU MAY BE SINCERE, but your request is full of pride. No one in the New Testament EVER used any sort of religious production to go forward in the building of the Church that JESUS BUILDS.

Just read and follow what I have already revealed in Acts and all the Epistles and especially the Revelation! In these pages you will find the way of HUMILITY. BEWARE: **Pride builds a grand harlot.**(Revelation 17)

My church can only be built by humility, by those who are modeling ‘Christ-likeness’ in the world. That which I don’t plant, I will root up in the last day.’ (Matthew 15:12-14)

ANOTHER PRAYS, “O GOD, be merciful to me. I have sinned. I have failed to manifest the LORD JESUS CHRIST to my spouse, to my neighbors, etc!” Surely, we can hear God’s reply to such a humble prayer: “I GIVE GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. I WILL GIVE YOU GRACE!”

A CRITICAL BOTTOM LINE: As one brother has said: “At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship— **PRIDE IS OUR GREATEST ENEMY AND HUMILITY IS OUR GREATEST FRIEND!**”

GOD hates all sin! **But sometimes God puts a “star” by certain sins.** GOD has a special hatred for pride: Prov. 6:16-19; Prov. 8:13; Prov. 16:5. These verses are plain— GOD HATES PRIDE. Pride is self-glorification. Pride robs God of glory. PRIDE slanders the character of God. BUT GOD NOT ONLY HATES PRIDE— HE OPPOSES THE PROUD: James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5.

Therefore, He opposed and still opposes all forms of worship which we offer IN SUBSTITUTION for plain and simple OBEDIENCE to what He has already revealed!’

THE STAKES ARE HIGH: Two churches are being built in the world today. One is being built by pride and one is being built by humility. One appears very impressive. The other is often oppressed and persecuted. However, the one being built by pride will be destroyed; while the one being built by humility will be exalted to the MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB! (Rev. 17-19)

MORE 'PRIDE vs HUMILITY' APPLICATION:

In homes, churches, neighborhoods, and at work— Many are quite willing to serve so long as everything suits them, pleases them, and/or if they are given ego stroking motivation. **This is but pride on parade!** In contrast, the humble servant of Jesus Christ is just honored to serve, needs no pampering, does not have to be handled with kid gloves, does not get feelings hurt— JUST KEEPS ON SERVING and 'WASHING FEET' even if no one else does!

HUMILITY IS NOT AN OPTION! It's the life to which every believer has been called— **a life of living like Jesus who is the greatest example of true humility! Doubtless, we all have need to advance in manifesting the humility of Christ! Let it be so!**

YES, WE ALL HAVE A CONTINUING, TWO-FOLD NEED:

(1) MORTIFY OUR PRIDE! (2) CULTIVATE HUMILITY!

HOW? "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!" (Gal. 5:16)

*** "Fill your affections with the cross of Christ that there may be no room for sin!" (John Owen)

*** "There is only one thing I know of that crushes me to the ground and humiliates me to the dust, and that is to look at the Son of God, and especially contemplate the cross. **When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.** Nothing else can do it. When I see that I am a sinner... that nothing but the Son of God on the cross can save me, I'm humbled to the dust... **Nothing but the cross can give us this spirit of humility!**" (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

*** "**All of us** have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness **until** we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there at the foot of the Cross that we shrink to our true size." (John Stott)

*** "**Abide close to the cross, and search the mystery of His wounds!**" (C.H. Spurgeon)

YES, the New Testament Christians commemorated the death and the resurrection of Christ by observing the LORD'S SUPPER in profound simplicity: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32. Jesus had

said, "...This Do in Remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19) In childlike faith and obedience, the early Christians simply did as Jesus instructed. (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

'Sola Scriptura' — On matters of Christian doctrine and faith and practice **we must be on a lifelong pilgrimage of studying the Word of God and of heeding the Word of God and of preaching/teaching the Word of God— be it welcome or unwelcome!** (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:13-17; 4:1-4) Thus, if we are going to take our cue from the New Testament, we will do as the New Testament Christians did! **Again, Jesus said, "...This Do In Remembrance of Me."** (Luke 22:19)

IN STARK CONTRAST: Whenever the world wants to get their point across or promote their product— they spend mega-bucks. They put on a Big Show and DAZZLE the physical senses. **Christian Religion follows in that train, as they seek to build impressive earthly kingdoms. Thus at Christendom's grand calendar moments of Christmas and Easter the creativity of humans is on dazzling display.** The masses love it. Many sincere servants of the LORD are blinded. **NEVERTHELESS,** Jesus continues to call His redeemed children to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words, **"...This do In Remembrance of Me."** **And as you know, the LORD'S SUPPER** is amazingly simple in its elements, and in what is required to carry out our LORD'S command.

The LORD'S SUPPER is equally within the reach of the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, the famous and the forgotten. **ESPECIALLY THIS WEEK— LET US 'MAKE MUCH OF' THE LAMB OF GOD! WITHOUT** any artificial enticements or inducements, the pure Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit are ready to carry us to the most ultimate heights of wonder and awe as we come to the **LORD'S TABLE, this Sunday, April 20, during the 10:45am worship service.**

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The Lord's Supper is a bond and pledge of the fellowship which believers have with Christ and with one another. In the Lord's Supper the body and blood of Christ are present to the faith of believers, not in any actual physical way, **but in a way of calling us to remember the once and for all sacrifice of our LORD at Calvary.** Our faith is called upon to focus upon the COMPLETE work of redemption

— the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and HE IS COMING BACK!

The Supper is a remembrance of **Him**. [Luke 22:19] The Supper is our communion with **Him**. [1 Cor. 10:16] The Supper is our fellowship with the body of Christ and especially the local body. [1 Cor. 11:18, 20] The Supper is a commemoration of His death. [1 Cor. 11:26]

SHOULD I TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Christ's invitation to the Supper is for me **if I am IN CHRIST; and if I am presently repenting of my sin and trusting Christ for salvation.**

WHY SHOULD I COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE?

Christ commands me to come! With this command He gives me this promise: As surely as I see with my eyes the bread broken and the cup given, so I know for certain that Christ became a real human being and poured out His blood on the cross. As surely as I take the bread and cup in my hand and taste them with my mouth, so I know for certain that Christ nourishes and refreshes my soul with His crucified body and blood. [Mt.26.26-28; 1 Cor. 11.23-25]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO EAT AND DRINK THE LORD'S SUPPER?

It means that I accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ for me. It means that by believing in, resting upon, relying on JESUS, I am forgiven all my sins and now have eternal life. This is not magic. Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not wash away my sins. Only Christ can remove my sins, and that happens when by His grace I put my faith in Him.

WHAT BENEFITS THEN DO I RECEIVE BY COMING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?

My sins are exposed for what they really are before a Holy God. My heart is inflamed with love for Christ. I am reminded of all that He suffered for me. My faith in Christ is strengthened. I not only hear with my ears what He has done for me, but I can also see, smell, taste, and touch the tokens of His suffering and death on my behalf.

My hope [Confident expectation!] that one day I will live with Christ is made more certain. Although His resurrection body is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and I am still here on earth, the Lord's Supper reinforces His promise that **He is coming back AND that** He will one day raise my mortal body and take me home to heaven to be with Him.

WHAT IF I KNOW THAT I'M NOT PERFECT?

I may come when I know myself to be a sinner and am displeased with myself because of my sin, yet come trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin. I may come when I know myself to be weak and in need of Christ to strengthen my faith and when I desire Him to enable me to live a better life.

WHY DOES JESUS USE BREAD AND DRINK?

Jesus uses this visible sign and pledge to assure me that all He has done for me in His perfect obedience, suffering, and death is certainly mine. I take the bread and the cup in my own hand and with my own mouth and am freshly assured that what Jesus accomplished for sinners at Calvary is given to me personally.

WHAT SHOULD I THINK AS THE ELEMENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED?

As I take the bread, I remember to thank God that Christ took up a human body; that He was tempted just as I am; that He was willing to suffer for me; that He lived a hard life in a poor family and that He was willing to be misunderstood.

As I take the cup, I remember to thank God that Jesus poured out His blood for me; that He saves me from the guilt of my sin; that He sets me free from the power of sin; that I now have the righteousness of Christ and that I will live and reign with Christ forever.

[This article is edited from a number of sources]

Grace to all in Christ!

James Bell 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_

➔ NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Thursday, April 17, 11:00AM, led by Cindy Bell

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

****** APRIL 20 IS RESURRECTION SUNDAY! ******

1. 9:30AM Sunday School hour, we will have a BRUNCH. [BRING food between 9:00-9:20am]

2. DURING THE 10:45AM WORSHIP HOUR we will sing praise to God for the life, the death, and the resurrection of our LORD; Dr. Bobby Gupta, President of Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, India, will be preaching;

We will conclude at the LORD'S TABLE.

[NO noon meal or afternoon service]

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR April 27

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 AUDITORIUM: WE NEED THE ENTIRE CHURCH FAMILY PRESENT. WE WILL BE MAKING SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS. Examples: **a. HomeGroups on 3rd Sunday Evenings INSTEAD OF the early afternoon service. **b.** CARE of widows/shut-ins. **c.** This summer: VBS or CAMP? **d.** Transportation for those needing it. **e.** A CHAIR/LIFT directly from the auditorium straight down to the Fellowship Hall. **f.** Updates on Elders and Deacons.**

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>