

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 40, No. 26, July 1, 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."

## **"HIS-Story" Lessons For JULY 4, 2014!**

### **I. Almighty God is in Sovereign control of all nations!**

OPEN YOUR BIBLES AND READ: Psalm 22:28; 75:6,7; 103:19; 115:3; 135:6; Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 20:24; 21:1; Isaiah 43:13; Lamentations 3:37; Daniel 2:20-21; 4:17; 4:34-35; 5:21. Almighty God is in sovereign control of all nations, including America— Psalm 22:28; 75:6, 7; 103:19; 115:3; 135:36; Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 20:24; 21:1; Isaiah 43:13; Lamentations 3:37; Daniel 2:20-21; 4:17; 4:34-35; 5:21 At the same time, rest assured that a part of God's sovereign control is that He has ordained "sowing and reaping" (Galatians 6:7-8). Men and nations make choices, chart courses, reap consequences; and at the very same time God rules and overrules— even as we see in Genesis 50:20 and Acts 4:26-28.

### **II. God Works Through Chosen Instruments!**

**(1) Sometimes** God uniquely works through chosen individuals like Abraham, Moses, Jacob, David, or one of the Prophets. **(2) Sometimes** God has risen up cruel pagans so as to chasten His own people: Isaiah 10:5; Habakkuk 1:6-7! [**Note:** Likewise, Salt-less saints can expect severe judgment— Matthew 5:13] **(3) Of course,** the Bible also reveals the chosen people, Israel. And within the physical nation of Israel was a

redeemed remnant, the saved believers of the Old Testament era: **Deuteronomy 7:6-8.**

**(4) Today in the New Testament era, in which we live, God is especially working through One Holy Nation which is His true Church, the redeemed, the Body of Christ: 1 Peter 2:9-10.**

**This unique Nation** now spans the globe. She will ultimately be made up of a numberless multitude of members out of every nation, kindred, tongue, tribe and people! **Christian, "YOU ARE a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people [A people claimed by God for His own]; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His marvelous light; ..."** (1 Peter 2:9-10)

**BEWARE:** There is a massive religious Harlot system with many daughters who passes herself off as the Bride of Christ, but she is not!

**Critical Note:** If you do not understand that there is **not only** the true Bride of Christ **but that also there is** the false bride, or Harlot— you will assume that all who "claim" to be are in the Bride of Christ— but many are not! **JESUS says they are not!** (Matthew 7:21-28; Revelation 17)

**NOTE:** In the Old Testament era, Israel was sovereignly chosen by God to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. **They were to show to the world** what a people would be like whose God was the true and living God! (Deuteronomy 7:6-10; Exodus 19:4-6) **Even so, the Church of Jesus Christ has the same calling!** (1 Peter 2:9-10) As another has so well said: "*Out of the tragedy of the Cross and the glory of the empty tomb and the wonder of the indwelling Holy Spirit came the New Testament Church— A New and Holy Nation! **She has** often been persecuted. **She has** often been obscured to the masses by clever and impressive counterfeits. **She has** been assumed and/or pronounced dead. Nevertheless, Jesus continues to build HIS CHURCH and nothing nor no one will stop Him!*"

**This is all a great wonder!** God has chosen to span the GLOBE with the Good News of Saving Grace, through each and every person whom He has already saved! Every born again Christian is motivated, empowered, and under orders to BE HIS WITNESSES— to GO TO ALL NATIONS making,

marking, and maturing Disciples of Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47) **This supreme global enterprise will proceed,** (regardless of whatever else is or is not happening on earth), **until the return of Christ!** (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20)

### **III. AMERICA and the Fulfilling of the Great Commission!**

From the time that Jesus prophesied that the Gospel would go into all the world (Matthew 24:14) and from the time that He gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)— **many centuries passed and the Gospel by no means went worldwide!** In fact: Apostasy came, soon the Dark Ages followed, and it seemed that the true church had been snuffed out. However, Sovereign God began to raise up reformers such as John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, John Hus, Martin Luther, and others. During the same period of time, God gave the wisdom for the invention of the printing press! **AND the true church began to be lifted up out of the darkness and bondage of Roman Catholicism.** **Note:** Here is a resource so as to understand **the radical difference** between Biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism:

**<http://www.justforcatholics.org>**

**Moreover, in the perfect timing of God,** there came **another most amazing orchestration**— God began to raise up a "group of nations", the British Empire, literally an Empire upon which the sun did not set! And, from that empire sprang forth a nation which many say is the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America. WHAT AN AMAZING PROCESS!

**1. In 1492, Pope Alexander VI,** gave to Spain and Portugal all of North, Central and South America. However, the British and the French did not take kindly to that gift! This matter climaxed in 1588, with Spain's mighty ships of the **Invincible Spanish Armada** attacking Britain's puny little navy. But, shockingly, the British won! How? Because of the WIND! In fact, the British struck a commemorative metal which had inscribed, **"GOD BLEW AND THEY WERE SCATTERED!"** **Reality:** Had the Spanish won, the United States would have become a nation dominated by Roman Catholicism.

**2. On July 4th, 1776, thirteen colonies** declared their independence from mighty England. Amazingly, the colonies not only won, but by 1783, they owned all of the land east of the Mississippi, except for Florida! Twenty years later, the USA purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon for about .84 cents per acre.

**3. Time marched onward** and the **United States of America** became the richest and mightiest nation on earth. **And as Abraham Lincoln once said**, "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things."

**4. Moreover, in a fashion like no other**, Almighty God gave to the entire English speaking world (Great Britain and especially the USA) four great gifts, simultaneously: **\*Wealth, \*Power, \*Freedom, and \*Gospel Opportunity**. As a result, from the English speaking world (Far more than from anyone else) God began to send forth the Gospel to the ends of the earth. **At long last, the Gospel** began to go to every continent, nation, tribe, and tongue. YES, in the midst of a dying, decaying world JESUS CHRIST is building His church, His Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9-10) **THE BOTTOM LINE: To be an American Christian** is to be doubly blessed! For we have received the glorious gospel of grace in an earthly setting of — **1. \*Wealth; 2. \*Power; 3. \*Freedom; and 4. \*Gospel Opportunity.**

**BUT LET US REMEMBER: To whom much is given, much is required!** (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 4:2) **CHRISTIAN:** You have been CHOSEN to Show forth His Praises, to Bear Fruit, to be Holy, to be Set Apart for God's Kingdom purposes, and to be Zealous in Good Works so as to glorify God. You have been COMMISSIONED to live out and to TELL the gospel and to disciple converts. You are a member of the true Bride, (Christ's Church!), getting ready for the Bridegroom of all bridegrooms, our LORD JESUS CHRIST! **SO LET IT BE!**

## **IV. MORE 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 Christians 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 authorize 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. **[NOTE: Unfortunately, I do not have the source of these quotes]**

**V. HERE IS MORE REALITY! Ultimately, Sodom was not destroyed because of her great sin— but because not even 10 righteous men could be found!**

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 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— 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 AND HOLINESS 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 not much 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. God is calling us** to remember from whence we have fallen, to repent and to return to FIRST LOVE FOR CHRIST! **NOTE: SUCH action is not in order to save America— but in order to PLEASE 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! LET US PRAY: **“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!”**

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

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

**\*\* WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; IN THE CHURCH AUDITORIUM! \*\***

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, JULY 17, 11:00AM,** led by Cindy Bell

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

~~~~ **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR JULY 6, 13,  
[20\*], 27 ~~~~**

- 1. 9:30am-** Sunday School Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship
- 2. 10:45am-** Morning Worship / Children's Church
- 3. Noon- Covered-dish Fellowship Meal**
- 4. 1pm- Early Afternoon Service, fellowship hall**

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**[\*JULY 20: 9:30am- Sunday School; 10:45am-  
Worship— concludes with LORD'S SUPPER. NO  
FELLOWSHIP MEAL // EVENING HOME GROUPS—  
same 3 groups; Each group determine location for 7/20  
Home Group ... invite additional ones. Can we start  
another group? ]**

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**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>