



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 30, August 2 , 2016 / 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."***

WORSHIP GOD!

WORSHIP is not just an underlying theme— **WORSHIP is the ultimate issue of life.** Where we spend eternity is totally dependent upon who we have, in reality, worshipped while here on earth!

MANY WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE us have left us helpful definitions, as relating to the true worship of the true and living GOD: Worship is the overflow of a grateful heart to God for His greatness and goodness. **Worship is** the occupation of the heart— not with needs or blessings, but with GOD HIMSELF.

WORSHIP IS THE UPRISING OF A HEART THAT KNOWS,

- (1) God the Father as the Great Giver;
- (2) God the Son as the Great Shepherd;
- (3) And God the Holy Spirit as the Indwelling resident in and President over our daily lives.

WORSHIP is adoring contemplation of God Himself, as He has revealed Himself in Christ and in the Word of God.

ONE OF THE WORDS translated ‘Worship’ literally means, “to reverence, to kiss the hand”. The English word “Worship” means Worth-Ship— the emphasis is on the worthiness of the one worshiped. In other words— Praise and Obedience are given to God because of WHO HE IS and because of His great acts of Creation and Redemption.

OBVIOUSLY our conception of God will greatly influence the nature of our worship. Is God perceived as Grandfather? Bellhop? Policeman? OR Holy, Almighty and loving Father? In order to have a right conception of God, it is vital that we **behold in the Holy Word of God** the continual, grand revelations of God.

In TRUE WORSHIP there is genuine celebration of the great Triune God Himself! God is the focus, not man. **When we gather as a Church Family to worship God,** it means that we have gathered to ascribe worth to God, to prostrate ourselves before God in loving submission, to offer unto Him honor, praise and adoration. We gather to recognize God’s glory, greatness, power, majesty, and rule. And it means that we offer ourselves as His servants.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IS not about our TASTES, our likes, and/or our dislikes. It’s not about, “I did not get fed, I did not like the music, I did not like the style”— RATHER, IT IS ALL ABOUT **WHAT DID I GIVE UNTO GOD?** Did God receive my whole hearted praise, adoration? Did He receive from me offerings of repentance, submission, and fresh obedience?

A Christian worship service is not an entertainment event. A Biblically based worship service is not designed to attract crowds [lost or saved], but an opportunity for saints of God in Christ to worship God in spirit and in truth.

When God is our focus in genuine worship, we never have the “IF ONLY” syndrome! Many folk live in a world of the “IF ONLY!” **IF ONLY** our place of worship was more beautiful— I could really worship. **IF ONLY** we had a certain style of music and with certain instruments— I COULD REALLY WORSHIP. **IF ONLY** the worship here was POLISHED and

PROFESSIONAL... like some of those TV ministries— I COULD REALLY WORSHIP... IF ONLY, IF ONLY, IF ONLY!

HOWEVER, true worship is not an 'ART FORM' condition. RATHER, TRUE WORSHIP IS A MATTER OF THE HEART! (Deut. 6:6; Prov. 4:23; Romans 10:10; Heb. 10:22; Matt. 22:37)

IF GOD DOES NOT HAVE OUR HEART— THEN OUR WORSHIP IS VAIN.

IDOL WORSHIP is not only the worship of the wrong god, but also the worship of the true God in the wrong way!

EXAMPLE: This worship scene was a case of the RIGHT God but the WRONG kind of worship: Isaiah 1:1-17— these folk had heart failure toward God. But they still DID CHURCH. In fact, they were very expressive in their church services.

Many of us would have walked in and said, “WOW! These folk really know how to worship!” It looked good. It sounded good. They had the crowds. They had excitement. **THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROBLEM: GOD HATED AND TOTALLY REJECTED THEIR WORSHIP!**

O TO BE SURE, they really put great energy, creativity, and effort into their worship services! However, it was all a vain show because GOD DID NOT HAVE THEIR HEARTS!

Their worship and their living were not in harmony and so, God HATED their worship!

Yet, amazingly, God pleads— vs. 18; God invites— vs. 19; God warns— vs. 20. And God has not changed!

Here is a DEADLY REALITY: The more we dislike and reject genuine worship, the more energy we will spend seeking to create and/or to find EXCITING worship experiences as substitutes!

This is not only plain in Isaiah 1:1-17; it is also obvious when Israel rejected God and the leadership of Moses.

They found a compromising preacher, (Aaron), and proceeded in a CREATIVE worship service that pleased the crowds immensely!

Of course, God hated it and let them know in no uncertain terms! (See Exodus 32) **And GOD has not changed... and judgment day is approaching!**

In the true worship of God a congregational worship service is the overflow from saints who have been worshiping God all week—gathering for GRAND CELEBRATION!

For true worship to God is done in daily life as we respond to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit with three grand notes of worship:

- 1. Amen!**
- 2. Hallelujah!**
- 3. Hallelujah!**

BE ON GUARD— satan is ever seeking worship! And he has the power to give you/us some grand temporal gifts! (Matt. 4:9) We must have our hearts set in daily life to make the confession of Jesus: “Get thee hence, satan; for it is written, Thou shalt WORSHIP the LORD thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” (Matt. 4:10) **That’s the ‘AMEN’ of genuine worship!**

In other words, life tumbles in with trials, temptations, testing, pressures, persecutions, heartaches, or whatever— **GENUINE WORSHIP is responding in faith obedience to the clear and pure Word of God.**

MAYBE, the temptation is to be bitter about something; or maybe the temptation is to lust or to fornicate— BUT GOD SAYS: Forgive the offender. Flee the fornication.

Genuine worship is when we say, ‘AMEN, SO BE IT LORD! I surrender, submit, yield, and bow to Thee— I choose to forgive. I

***FLEE the sin, etc.'* That's worship.** Without such 'AMEN' responses, we are just playing church.

GOD SPEAKS. WE BOW and OBEY, speaking from our hearts, "Be it unto me according to Thy Word!" That's the 'Amen' of genuine worship.

When those who are worshipers of God in daily life show up for worship service celebrations with fellow saints— No one has to prime the worship pump!

When we are true worshippers of God in daily life— GENUINE EXCITEMENT, THE JOY OF THE LORD, AWESOME PRAISE, and FRESH FAITH/OBEDIENCE WILL TEND TO EXPLODE in the congregational Worship Celebration services!

OR WHEN GOD'S BACKSLIDDEN children assemble together and ASK FOR and are ATTENTIVE to the reading/preaching of the Word of God... and RESPOND to the Word of God with 'AMENS... LIFTING UP THEIR HANDS... BOWING THEIR HEADS in worshipful submission to God... there will be brokenness over sin, repenting of sin... and then JOY UNSPEAKABLE! (Nehemiah 8:1-14)

If we reject this way, then we can continue to resort to **professional manipulators** who will stand before congregations with charismatic personalities, and with high powered electronics bringing SIGHTS AND SOUNDS and powerful, flesh appealing musical and dramatic presentations.

THE CROWDS LOVE IT! GOD HATES IT!

It's the same deadly method as we find in Exodus 32 and Isaiah 1:1-17.

Jesus calls it vain worship! (Matt. 7:1-9)

IN CHURCHES ALL OVER the land, so called 'worship wars' are taking place. Congregations are fighting one another over 'styles' of music, etc.

The focus is on human likes and/or dislikes. The church faithful, who have not worshiped in spirit and in truth all week, walk in for worship services demanding to be pleased, to be made to feel good, desiring to be religiously excited. So, modern day Aarons go to work... and God still hates it!

HOWEVER, there are those who diligently seek to be true worshipers of God, **24/7... Daily they live in the spirit of**, 'Be it unto me according to Thy Word, O Lord!' **Daily they** 'hit' the "Amen!" note of true worship—"SO BE IT LORD!" And they do so, not with a long face, but with a, **'HALLELUJAH!'**

For joy is experienced IN THE STEPS of Jesus!

THUS, there is the Hallelujah of knowing that JESUS IS THE VICTOR, reigning in heaven, bringing His purposes to earth, moving events toward the day of HIS RETURN, and to the day when we shall see Him, FACE TO FACE... and rule with Him for all eternity.

SO, indeed, the ultimate issue of life and all eternity is worship!

Amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Grace to one and all! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

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

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **The Epistle of James, // NEXT: August 16 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Study in **ROMANS**}... **Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru** awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST: 7, 14, 21, 28*****

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

Special notes for August 21-- 9:30am-** Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service & LORD'S SUPPER / NO Children's Church / NO NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / NO 1:00pm Service

SUNDAY EVENING HOME GROUPS

Special notes for August 28***

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

5:30pm-7:30pm— FAITHFUL MEN'S

FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!*

For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***

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