



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 2, January 10 , 2017 / 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; and 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 WITH FELLOW BELIEVERS— A BIG DEAL OR NOT?

Here is one of several good definitions of Christian Worship: ***“Worship is drawing near to God in fellowship with Him and obedience to Him so that He is magnified and glorified.*** BEFORE SIN, such worship is what Adam and Eve enjoyed as they walked with God in the cool the day ([Gen. 2:8](#)). Psalm 100 calls us to worship, *“Come into His presence with singing and into His courts with praise.”* In [Isaiah 43:6-7](#) God proclaims, Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, ***whom I created for My glory***, whom I formed and made. God commands through Paul in [1 Corinthians 10:31](#), ***“Whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.”*** THUS: Worship — magnifying God’s worth and glory — is the reason God made us!

AFTER ADAM and EVE sinned, their communion with God was broken; so that when they heard God walking in the garden, ***“the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God”*** ([Gen 3:8](#)) Their sin created a separation between them and their Creator, and they were forced to leave the sanctuary ([Gen 3:23-24](#)). **REALITY:** All sin is essentially failure to bring God glory ([Rom 3:23](#)) — it is failure to worship Him. This failure creates barriers from drawing near to God in worship,

and it brings with it severe punishment: eternal separation from the presence of God in hell. **Sin prevents us from drawing near to God in worship;** it prevents us from doing what we were created to do. **{Sin also causes separation, separateness in families and churches!}** HOWEVER, through the sacrifice, the vicarious, substitutionary atonement of the Son of God, those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB are now both able and motivated to WORSHIP! THAT IS, those who repent of their sin — (their failure to worship!) — and place their faith and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on their behalf are saved from separation from God and enabled once again to draw near to him in worship. HOW STUNNING: **Drawing near to God in relationship with Him** — (made impossible because of sin that demands eternal judgment!) — **IS NOW RESTORED** through the substitutionary atonement of the God-man **for those who, BECAUSE OF AMAZING GRACE,** place their faith in Him. The gospel of Jesus Christ RESTORES and EMPOWERS worship! (The above edited from *What is Worship?* By Scott Aniol)

RESPONSE: “Great! Me and Jesus got a good thing going; and I don’t need to be committed and faithful to a local church!”

QUESTION: Do you love Jesus? **Response:** YES, YES, YES! ‘O HOW I LOVE JESUS!’

QUESTION: Do you love the BODY OF CHRIST, that specific portion of the Body of Christ, that local assembly of saints to which the Holy Spirit has joined you; and IS your love for the BODY OF JESUS evident as you FAITHFULLY gather with your fellow saints FOR WORSHIP; and do you FAITHFULLY gather with your fellow saints to CARRY OUT THE many ‘one-to-another’ ministries toward each other; and you are TEAMED UP with your fellow saints of the local assembly IN PRAYER and in evangelizing the lost? (What? You are NOT committed to such?)

REALITY: I may say that I love Jesus; but if I say I love JESUS but do not LOVE HIS BODY, His church, as described above— **then, I am at best badly deceived and at worse, a deceiving LIAR.**

REALITY: Saul of Tarsus learned that THE WAY he treated Christians, the Body of Christ, was the way he treated Christ— no more, no less: Acts 9:4-

5. **REALITY:** A lot of the church folk at the Church at Corinth were treating EACH OTHER badly in a variety of ways— and PAYING FOR IT!

*** **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**, Phillips— ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Don't you realize that you yourselves are the temple of God, and God's Spirit lives in you? **God will destroy anyone who defiles His temple, for His temple is holy—** and that is exactly what you are!

*** **1 Corinthians 11:29-30**, Amplified— ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks [without solemn reverence and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ], eats and drinks **a judgment on himself if he does not recognize the body [of Christ].** ³⁰ That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason why many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep [in death].

REALITY: 1 John 4:19-20, Amplified — ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates (works against) his [Christian] brother he is a liar; **for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

PROTEST RESPONSE: "I don't HATE anyone... and I certainly do not 'HATE or WORK AGAINST' the brothers and sisters in the church fellowship!"

RESPONSE: TRUE, but God's love is MUCH MORE than the absence of active evil toward others. MANY, indeed, are NOT engaged in ACTIVE EVIL against any in the local assembly to which they are joined— **they are JUST too busy with their own agenda to be ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVE GOOD of the local assembly to which they are supposed to be CONTRIBUTING BODY MEMBERS!** (Ephesians 4:11-16)

YES, CHRISTIAN LOVE in the local church IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN and something FAR DIFFERENT FROM active hate! The New Testament is full of **one anothers**, revealing **GENUINE LOVE:**

Love one another: John 13:34-35; 5:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; John 3:11, 14, 23; 4:7, 11, 12:2; II John 1:5 and 1 Peter 1:22. (You get to look these up!) We are also to love one another to fulfill the law (Romans 13:8), increase our love one for another (II Thessalonians 1:3), abound in love for another (I Thessalonians 3:12), and we are to love each other deeply, to cover a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8).

We are to interact with care: Have fellowship one with another (I John 1:17) Forgive one another (Eph. 3:13, 4:32 & Col. 3:13) Greet one another with a holy kiss - or an embrace in some cultures (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12 & I Peter 5:14) Wait for one another to break bread (I Cor. 11:33) Bear one another's sufferings (I Cor. 12:26)

We are to serve one another: Serve one another with the gifts each person has received (I Peter 4:10) Serve one another in love (Gal 5:13) Be kind to one another (I Thess. 5:15) Care for one another (I Cor 12:25) Bear the burdens for one another (Gal. 6:2) Wash each other's feet or humbly serve one another (John 13:14) Work with one another (I Cor 3:9; II Cor. 6:1)

We are to teach one another: Teach one another (Col. 3:16) Instruct one another (Rom. 5:14) **We are to encourage one another:** Encourage one another (Col 3:16; Heb 10:25) Exhort one another (Heb. 3:13) Speak the truth to one another (Eph 4:25) Lay down our lives one for another (I John 3:16) Spur one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24)

We are to edify one another: Edify (strengthen, build up) one another (I Thess. 4:18 & 5:1, 11) Edify one another (I Cor. 14:26) **We are to give spiritual care:** Confess our sins one to another (James 5:16) Pray for one another (James 5:16)

We are to cultivate unity and to act with humility: Honor one another (Rom. 12:10) Be of one mind one with another (II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:16, 15:5) Do not criticize one another (James 4:11; 5:9) Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21) Be clothed with humility toward one another (I Peter 5:5) **We are to live in harmony:** Have patience one with another (Eph. 4:2) Live in peace one with another (Matt. 9:50) Receive one another with

hospitality (Rom. 15:7; I Peter 4:9) Glorify God together (Rom. 15:6)
We were never meant to walk the road of Christian living alone. We need each other!

ONE BIG ISSUE IS TIME! *GOD'S WORD REVEALS A GRAND SOLUTION— MAKE THE LORD'S DAY A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE LORD—* for the LORD HIMSELF, WHICH INCLUDES HIS BODY! We cannot love JESUS the Head, while rejecting, hating, or being slack, or non-committal toward HIS BODY!

START BY GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY! Have/develop a passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL! Why? Because the LORD'S DAY is a special day to DELIGHT IN GOD. (Isaiah 58:13-14) It is a special day for worship, for ministry, for rest. There is no carnal legalism here. WE SIMPLY recognize that **precious relationships and priority ministry require specific and precious time. Honestly, why would any Christian not place supreme priority on Delighting in God? In view of the great mercies of God, holding the LORD'S DAY sacred for God is not at all duty but rather it is a grand delight! (Isaiah 58:13-14)**

There is no strain required in order **to refrain from** OUR own ways, pleasures, or ideas as to how each LORD'S DAY will be spent. In the light of the MERCIES of God, OUR passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL is but reasonable worship and service! **(Rom. 12:1-2)** WITH SUCH GODLY VISION we will not be ashamed to humbly inform family and friends that **as for our household—** Sundays uniquely belong to the LORD.

SATURDAY CHOICES— A KEY to Sacred Sundays!

BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST and HIS BODY are so important; and because we are so GRATEFUL for the LORD'S MERCIES— THEREFORE, no late Saturday nights out partying, playing, movies, going to games, or malls, or a thousand other allurements!

Instead, on Saturday Evenings the following will be typical: **a.** Sunday School lessons are studied; **b.** Last minute checks are made on those to whom the Gospel was planted during the week; **c.** Prayers are lifted up for the LORD'S blessing on all the LORD'S DAY services; **d. Clock alarms are set early enough so that on the LORD'S DAY morning**

WE will not be rushed. In other words, we will function like a missionary family on a foreign mission field! **REALITY:** Sometimes there may be special Saturday family activities, but regardless our plan and passion is to MAKE SURE to be in bed early enough so as to be fully rested and refreshed for a GRAND LORD'S DAY OF DELIGHTING IN GOD!

BY THE WAY, PRAYER is an obvious additional preparation for MAKING THE LORD'S DAY SPECIAL: family and individual prayers; AND PRAYERS with other saints at the Church-wide Wednesday Prayer Service.

EXAMPLE: The LORD'S DAY, with ONE OF our Christian Families who have a PASSION TO DELIGHT IN GOD! They live a few miles from the Southside church building; nevertheless, because they purposely go to bed early on Saturday evenings— Sunday mornings find them rested, up early with plenty of time for family devotions, breakfast, some family time, necessary chores, and even plenty of time to arrive early for Sunday School! It is clear that this **Christian family** is excited about being in place early so as to welcome those they have invited to come this Sunday; and/or to briefly meet with those with whom they are in accountability; and/or to spend a few moments with those they are discipling!

Soon after arrival at the church building we find our **Christian family** helping visitors or newcomers find all the right places... and helping visitors/newcomers to be introduced to others and to have someone to sit with during the worship hour, etc. One Sunday, we spotted the Mom of our special family in the hallway, praying with a single Mom who was all stressed and feeling hopeless.

Between Sunday School and Worship services **and after** the Worship services members of this family continued ministering. We also discovered that it is common for our **Christian family** to have their **eyes open for ministry** opportunities during the Fellowship Meal. **Furthermore, they made a point to say that it would take something really serious to keep them from the LORD'S SUPPER times.**

Interestingly, our Christian family testified that they never have discussions as to whether or not they will be faithful to attend and participate in the Southside LORD'S DAY services. It's a given. It is preeminent priority. As one might expect, our **Christian family** commonly use LORD'S DAY afternoons for rest and/or for family and/or ministry.

Obviously, our Christian Family Has a Passion to Make Sundays Special!

It seems that each of the family members come to Church services, armed with **"A Sunday Search!"** (This "Sunday Search"... simply helps them be prepared for their afternoon sharing— **before each LORD'S DAY is over**, they have a family time of sharing:

(1) "How Christ spoke **TO me** today!"— through the S.S. lesson, Music, the Sermon, etc. **(2)** "How Christ spoke **THROUGH me** today!"— those to whom they were blessed to minister. **(3)** What follow up strategies they might use in the coming days with those to whom they are encouraging and/or sharing the Gospel. Our **Christian family** said that **in these ways** they are further spreading the good news of the present works of God.

MONDAY through SATURDAY— is also involved in DELIGHTING IN GOD with fellow saints on the LORD'S DAY! HOW SO? WE ALL have chores, duties, jobs, School, Homework, stresses, trials, and etc. However, NONE OF THAT NEED HINDER our focus and passion in life BEING GOD AND HIS KINGDOM.

a. Thus, in our neighborhood, at school, at work— we must seek to live holy, to love, to bless, and to do good to all men and especially to other Christians.

b. WE MUST seek to build bridges of love.

c. WE MUST seek to establish TOUCH POINTS... so that we can build caring relationships... ultimately so that we may share the gospel.

WHY? BECAUSE we view ourselves as Missionaries who are No Different from a Missionary Serving in a different MISSION FIELD!

THEREFORE, we purpose to be excellent employees and/or students, and neighbors. At times we participate in various community, civic, sports, and/or cultural events. Why? There are a number of reasons.

But chief among them is that these all provide opportunities/settings to make Christ visible out in the midst of their mission field.

WAIT... I HAVE A QUESTION: Earlier you mentioned a particular family... in their preparations for the LORD'S DAY... May I ask: Of which Southside family were you speaking?

(You might think: "What have you been drinking? **THERE ARE NO SUCH FAMILIES!**")

Response: Well, it should be your family and mine!

MOREOVER: To whatever degree any of us don't measure up, we must make some serious decisions:

a. We can humble ourselves, repent as needed, and get on the road of DELIGHTING IN GOD, ministering to saints, and of being Foreign Missionaries!

b. Or we can make excuses, play church, and invite the judgment of God which will come on saltless saints! (Matthew 5:13)

Abundant Grace to Each 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— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2017 @ 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! {*STUDYING the Epistle of First John*} AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

Sunday Services, January 15

9:30am - Sunday School
10:45am - Worship Service
No meal. No 1pm service

HOME GROUPS MEET IN THE EVENING

Sunday Services, January 22, 31

9:30am - Sunday School
10:45am - Worship Service
Noon Covered Dish meal and 1pm afternoon service