



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 7, February 15 , 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."***

IMPORTANT NOTE: If I update and revise an article that has been sent out before— **it is for one reason only:** The subject is of **critical importance**; and there is **GREAT NEED** for us receive and heed the Biblical truth in the article. **THUS**, we will have a **FRESH FOCUS** on the subject of **WORSHIP**.

WE GATHER to WORSHIP the TRUE and LIVING GOD!

The NEW BIRTH transforms us into worshippers of the true and living God! BUT WHAT IS the worship of God all about? Quotes from unknown sources help us: **"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 **God the Father** as the Great Giver; **God the Son** as the Great Shepherd; 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 worshipped. As the

hymn states, the TRIUNE GOD is '**worthy of worship, worthy of praise!**'

OBVIOUSLY our conception of God will greatly influence the nature of our worship. **QUESTION:** Is God a mere Grandfather type? Bellhop? Policeman? OR is He our 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.

(Note: Read books by A.W. Tozer, Arthur Pink, and J.I. Packer on the study of the Attributes of God! Such a study will help motivate worship!)

In God honoring 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.

Bible-based, Holy Spirit anointed worship is not about our TASTES, our likes, and/or dislikes. It's not about, "I did not get fed; I did or did not like the music; or I did or did not like the style!"

INSTEAD, GENUINE WORSHIP 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, fresh obedience, PRAISE, GRATITUDE, and THANKSGIVING?

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IS NOT AN ENTERTAINMENT EVENT. A Biblically based worship service is not designed to attract crowds, but an opportunity for saints of God in Christ to worship God in spirit and in truth.

IN THE TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD a congregational worship service is the overflow of saints who have been worshipping God all week, gathering for GRAND CELEBRATION!

TRAGICALLY, many folk think of ‘worship’ only as what is done during a Sunday Worship Service! Many think of ‘worship’ only as relating to MUSIC! HOWEVER, IN TRUE WORSHIP, “**Praise and Obedience** are given to God because of WHO HE IS and because of His great acts of Creation and Redemption.” 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— So be it in my life, O LORD!

2. Hallelujah!

3. Hallelujah!

HERE IS GOOD NEWS— when God is our focus in genuine worship, **we never have the “IF ONLY” syndrome!** Many folk live in a religious 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. 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, 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 worship.

Many of us would have walked in and said, “WOW! These folk really know how to worship!” It looked good. They had the crowds. They had excitement. **THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROBLEM—**

GOD HATED AND TOTALLY REJECTED THEIR WORSHIP!

I SUSPECT that they really put great energy 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! THEREFORE: God pleads— vs. 18; God invites— vs. 19; God warns— vs. 20. And God has not changed!

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.

In Aaron, they found a compromising preacher and proceeded in a CREATIVE worship service that pleased the crowds immensely! God hated it and let them know in no uncertain terms! **(See Exodus 32) And GOD has not changed... and judgment day is approaching!**

MAJOR ALERT:

Satan sought worship from Jesus, (Matthew 4:1-10); and **satan is seeking worship from us!** MOREOVER, satan has the power to give you/us 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; but God says that we must forgive; or maybe the temptation is to lust; but God says that we must FLEE the temptation.

Genuine worship is when we say, ‘AMEN, SO BE IT LORD, I embrace thy will, I surrender, submit, yield, and bow to Thee— I choose to forgive. I FLEE! etc.’ That’s worship that is in spirit and in truth! Without such ‘AMEN’ responses, we are just playing church.

GOD SPEAKS. IN GENUINE WORSHIP WE BOW and OBEY, speaking from our hearts, **“Be it unto me according to Thy Word!”**

That’s the ‘Amen’ of genuine worship!

GRAND REALITY: When those who worship God daily 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!

If we reject this way, then we tend to resort to **professional manipulators** who stand before congregations with charismatic personalities, and with high powered electronics they bring VISUALS and SOUNDS with powerful, flesh appealing 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)

SELFISH FOCUS is on human likes and/or dislikes. MULTITUDES, (who have not worshipped in spirit and in truth all week), walk in for worship services demanding to be pleased, desiring to be made to feel good, desiring to be religiously excited. So, modern day Aarons go to work... and God hates it!

HOWEVER, there are those who diligently seek to be true worshippers of God, seven days a week!

1. Daily they live in the spirit of, ‘Be it unto me according to Thy Word, O Lord!’

2. Daily they ‘hit’ the “Amen!” note of true worship— “SO BE IT LORD!”

3. And they do so, not with a long face, but with a, **‘HALLELUJAH!’** — **joy is experienced as we walk IN THE STEPS of Jesus!** (John 15:10-11)

4. Moreover, 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 events to the day when** we shall see Him, FACE TO FACE... and rule with Him for all eternity. **Amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Thus, how sad it is that thoughts and/or conversations after Sunday ‘worship services’ are too often similar to this: *“I did (or I did not!) get anything out of the sermon. I did (or I did not) like the music or what the choir sang... or the architecture of the buildings, etc.*

In contrast, real **Christian worship is not** about our likes, preferences, imaginations, and/or our creativity. Instead, we gather before AN AUDIENCE OF ONE [GOD!]; and adjust ourselves to revelation from the Word of God, quickened to us by His Holy Spirit!

A true Christian ‘worship service’ is an appointment with the Living God to praise, give thanks, and to honor HIM! God is the focus, not man.

Real Congregational Christian Worship Takes Place When—

1. We gather as a church family **to ASCRIBE** worth to God.

2. We gather **to PROSTRATE** ourselves before God **in submission to** the truth of His Word.

3. We gather **to offer UNTO HIM** honor, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving— REMEMBERING the redeeming love of God which births, sustains, and builds up worship!

4. We gather **to RECOGNIZE and REJOICE in** God's glory, greatness, power, victory, majesty, and rule.

5. We gather **to offer unto God** willing heart offerings and our own selves!

6. We then **SCATTER** out into the world to **live and proclaim** the GOSPEL— this too is a part of our life of worshipping/serving the true and living God!

BE ON GUARD: *Worship may have full acceptance and praise from men; but if that worship is void of overflowing obedience to God it is but a vain, empty show! (Mark 7:1-13)*

The results of genuine worship services

1. We go forth into the world living lives of love, purity, compassion, forgiveness, joy, peace, and more.

2. We go forth manifesting the same kind of love with which He loves us!

3. We go forth on mission to make Christ visible and known to the lost world around us.

GLORIOUS REALITY:

When we adapt ourselves to Him and to His revealed will in worship, we will receive what we truly need from worship— namely, **JOY IN GOD, renewed power** to win daily spiritual battles, and **fresh boldness** as witnesses for Christ!

BELOVED! LET US GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD!

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: TUESDAY, February 28, 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:

**** February 19:**

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service / NO meal or afternoon service

HOME GROUPS MEET... usually at 5pm

**** February 26:**

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service

Noon Covered Dish meal / NO afternoon service

**□ 5:30PM - 7:30PM FAITHFUL MEN'S MONTHLY
FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING: Continuing in the 16 TESTS of an
AUTHENTIC New Testament Church... be prepared for Concept 7&
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