



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No.14, April 4 , 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."***

RESURRECTION SUNDAY IS NEAR— April 16

HAVE YOU EVER opened your New Testament and looked for Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, Service of Darkness, Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday? IT'S TRUE, none of these are in or from the Bible! **In contrast** and with simplicity, JESUS instituted the LORD'S SUPPER, saying— ***"...This Do In Remembrance of Me."*** (Luke 22:19)

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 often follows in that train, as they seek to build impressive earthly kingdoms. Thus, at Christendom's grand calendar moments of Christmas and Easter, she is on dazzling display.

And for the masses, Sola Scriptura must not be applied— it gets in the way of much loved traditions. IN CONTRAST: Martin Luther said, *"I am bound by the Scriptures...and my conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God, and I am neither able nor willing to recant,*

since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience. God help me. Amen!"

SO AGAIN, Jesus calls His Church to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words, "**...THIS DO In Remembrance of Me.**" The LORD'S SUPPER is 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. 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 Resurrection Sunday, April 16! (Further interesting reality:** The resurrection of Jesus Christ and our resurrection because of HIS... is GLORIOUS truth. Even so, when Jesus set forth what HE wants us to commemorate— IT IS THE CROSS!

The Apostle Paul clearly understood that as he proclaimed, in Galatian 6:14— Yet 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. (Phillips)

DIVINE ROAD MAP For N. T. Christians— Revealed in Leviticus 23!

"Blessed/happy/fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, who understand and appreciate **THE SPIRITUAL BLESSEINGS SYMBOLIZED BY the feasts...**" (Ps. 89:15, Amp. Bible)

The Seven Feasts of the LORD pointed to what God would do when He sent His Son. These feasts and all the blood sacrifices were designed to convey that God is holy and that only by the shedding of innocent blood can sin be forgiven and fellowship with God restored. The Seven Sacred Feasts of the LORD, (in New Testament fulfillment), unveil a '**Spiritual Road Map' for the Christian's life**— showing where we've been, where we are, and where God is leading and taking us... in an amazing JOURNEY IN GRACE!

CHRISTIAN, you know this is true: It is so easy to get entangled in the cares of this life and lose a proper sense of purpose and destiny. **TOO**

OFTEN we are off course, CRASHING ON THE ROCKS OF SIN. **IT IS URGENT that we** glory in the New Testament fulfillment and application of the feasts of the LORD. THEY SHINE AS GOD'S LIGHTHOUSE of AMAZING GRACE— beaming forth FULL SALVATION and **calling us to delight ourselves in God Himself!**

THEREFORE, WHEN WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE, we come to REST in, and HOPE in, and GLORY in FULL SALVATION. **In ONE CELEBRATION, (the LORD'S SUPPER), we celebrate all SEVEN of the following FEASTS OF THE LORD—** in New Testament FULFILLMENT, of course!

I. [LEVITICUS 23:4-5] PASSEOVER: For the Old Testament Israelites, Passover was a remembrance of the night when the death angel passed over their homes sparing the first born. **For New Testament Christians** the Passover marks the beginning of salvation. The Passover lamb beautifully pictured Christ— *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* (John 1:29) *“...slain from the foundation of the world.”*(Rev. 13:8) **“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”** (I Cor. 5:7)

God's message in the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same: Not when I see your good works or your golden rule living; **NOT WHEN** I SEE YOUR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE— **but “When I see the blood, I will pass over you!”**

NEVER FORGET: The Israelite deserved death as much as the Egyptian; AND WE deserve death and Hell as much as anyone! Do you see that? Only when you do, will you flee to Christ for His blood to pay your sin debt! When Israel took the blood of the lamb and applied it in faith— God acted! HE sent the plague of death on Egypt, while PASSING OVER ISRAEL; and Pharaoh released Israel. **IN A FAR GREATER WAY,** when we receive Christ's blood, God acts! His holy wrath is satisfied! Sin's penalty is paid!

JESUS DID NOT PAY IT TO SATAN. Rather, God the Father satisfied His own holy wrath by the blood of His Son! As a result, we are delivered from satan's grasp and kingdom of darkness; SIN'S penalty is paid; and sin's power is broken!

QUESTION: Have you ever come to Jesus with all of your sin; and cried out in similar fashion as the tax-collector: **“O God, be merciful to me a sinner?”**

II. [LEVITICUS 23:6-8] UNLEAVENED BREAD: In Scripture, leaven usually refers to sin. This feast pictured that those who were delivered from death by the shedding of and the applying of INNOCENT blood, NOT ONLY have their sins forgiven; THE POWER OF SIN AND SATAN IS BROKEN! : **God has a claim** on the regenerated life! **WE ARE PURCHASED by His blood! We are to GLORIFY Him!** (I Cor. 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; I Thess. 5:22; II Tim. 2:19) When Israel went out of Egypt by the power of God, Pharaoh and his armies pursued; however God stepped in, empowering Israel to overcome the impossible! **When a person becomes a Christian, Satan and evil humans pursue!** They call you back. They will try to ENTICE you back to Egypt, back into the world of sin, self, and society! Christian friend, in our own strength we cannot conquer sin, self, or Satan! IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, we cannot keep God’s holy commandments. HOWEVER, IN and THROUGH CHRIST who is in us, we can! **BY JESUS, our High Priest, we conquer!** (Ex. 13:14 & 14:14) **Therefore:**

1. In obedient faith, let us put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7). **2. In obedient faith,** let us live a life of feeding on Christ who has no leaven. **3. In trusting faith,** let us live a life of total dependence. **The LORD’S TABLE reminds us of these things!**

***** DON’T MISS our next opportunities at the LORD’S TABLE: **APRIL 16!**

III. [LEVITICUS 23:9-14] FIRST FRUITS: The Israelites could not harvest any of their early grain crop until the first bundle of grain was cut and brought to the priest. The priest would wave it before the Lord to be accepted of God.

For New Testament saints, the resurrected Jesus Christ is the first fruits of them that slept (I Cor. 15:20-23). He arose from the dead. He was accepted by God. And because He, the first fruits, was accepted— so we the rest of the harvest are accepted in Him. *** *James 1:18— of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.* Moreover, Romans 8:23 tells us that we have the

first fruits of the Holy Spirit! It is by the Holy Spirit that we even now have the resurrection life of Christ and the blessed hope of future resurrection!

MOVING FORWARD, the Feast of First Fruits was always held the third day from Passover: Christ was crucified on the day of Passover. He arose from the dead three days later on the Day of First Fruits. **When we experience a saving encounter with Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual participation in these first three feasts:**

1. Passover: We are redeemed, delivered BY THE BLOOD SACRIFICE of our LORD JESUS CHRIST— our substitute, sin bearer, and Saviour! Christ became our Passover Lamb. THROUGH HIM, WE were and ARE Delivered from wrath/slavery/guilt. But that is not all: WE ALSO EXPERIENCE, **2. Unleavened bread:** We are separated from sin. We put away sin and feed on Christ. HOW COULD IT BE OTHERWISE? **3. First fruits:** We are accepted in the Beloved because of His resurrection; and we are set apart for Him. We are not only saved from the world, the flesh, and the devil, but we are consecrated— saved to a new life in Christ. **THERE'S MORE!**

IV. [LEVITICUS 23:15-16] PENTECOST: This feast is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. It was seven weeks or 50 days after the presentation of the bundle of First Fruits. This was originally a sort of harvest festival of thanksgiving after the people had gathered the harvest. The ancient rabbis, right or wrong, later concluded that God gave the law to Moses on this day. So this festival came to be regarded as the season of the giving of the law.

But more significant and certain is this: **1. Jesus died on Passover. 2. Jesus was raised on First Fruits. 3. And the Holy Spirit came exactly on the day of Pentecost!** Are you beginning to see the relevance of God's sacred calendar of redemption? GLORY TO GOD, the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost **to indwell, fill, and baptize believers!** John 14:16-17— He shall be in you. **WHY?**

- 1. To empower** the believers for the evangelizing of the world (Acts 1:8).
- 2. To form** the body of Christ (Jew and Gentile— I Cor. 12:13).
- 3. To enable/empower** every Christian to keep God's holy law (Ez. 36:26-27).

4. To teach us all that Jesus said, to glorify Jesus, to unveil the future (Jn 14-16).

5. To manifest in/through Christians a miraculous orchard of fruit, (Gal. 5:21-23).

6. To release through every Christian a glorious array of ministering gifts to build up the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12) **OH, Glorious FULL SALVATION!**

NOTICE: All of these events happen AT THE BEGINNING of the Christian life:

1. Passover— Deliverance from judgment and Satan. **2. Unleavened Bread**— Separation from sin. **3. First Fruits**— Consecration to Christ. **4. Pentecost**— Indwelling power for a holy/bold/witnessing life. **We are living in the Pentecostal age. FROM A BIBLICAL SENSE, EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTIAN! None of this is a second work of grace. RIGHT NOW: We are living in an interval of time BEFORE the next great event of God's calendar.** My, what a solid Rock foundation the Christian has:

1. Christ died for us. **2. Christ**, our unleavened bread. **3. Christ** raised. **4. Christ** indwelling and empowering. **Our past is forgiven AND our present is empowered. But even that's not all!** For in the fall of the Jewish year came the Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles.

V. LEVITICUS 23:24: THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS: In this present hour, the Christian lives with soberness and with hope. **Soberness:** Sound the trumpet! The judgment and wrath of God is coming. Soberness: Rev. 18:2-5. **Hope:** JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK! Rev. 19-22. Living in the conscious awareness of Christ's second coming, for the Christian, is a **PURIFYING HOPE:** 1 John 3:14

VI. LEVETICUS 23:27: THE DAY OF ATONEMENT: In the Old Testament it was a sacred day of cleansing from sin. Today, in Christ, because of Calvary, we are already cleansed from both the **penalty** of sin and the ruling **power** of sin. But one day, when Christ comes, we shall be delivered from even the **presence** of sin and **possibility** of sin (Rev. 7:15-17; Rev. 21-22; I John 3:1-3).

No wonder PAUL CRIES OUT, "GOD FORBID that I should glory, save in the CROSS! ..."— (Gal. 6:14)!

VII. LEVITICUS 23:34: THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES: Here is consummation, completion, rest, and fellowship with God. **HERE IS:** Ruling/rejoicing with Christ forever; Sitting at His feet; Beholding His face (Rev. 22:1-5). Therefore: Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 3:13-14!

YES, THE SEVEN SACRED FEASTS OF THE LORD, in New Testament fulfillment, call us to a **mighty revival of delighting in God!** **THEREFORE,** let us delight in God and in SO GREAT SALVATION! *** I AM SURE that the LORD GOD is pleased to use this glorious FULL SALVATION CELEBRATION **to help keep us from SHIPWRECK.** *** The TRUTHS of the SEVEN SACRED FEASTS OF THE LORD, FULFILLED at the LORD'S TABLE, give us a Divine ROAD MAP so that throughout the year, saints in Christ are reminded of— **WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WHOSE WE ARE, AND THAT WE ARE ON A JOURNEY HOME! THEREFORE, LET US BE FOUND IN FAITHFUL SERVICE, UNTIL HE COMES!**

What the above study is NOT: It is not an admonition to celebrate the Feasts as a means of gaining favor either with God or with people. In writing to the Colossians (2:16-17), Paul said, "Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon celebration or a Sabbath day. The Old Testament Feasts were a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."

What this study IS:

It is a call to embrace the FULL SALVATION of the Lord and respond in worship and praise to God— especially at the LORD'S TABLE! It is a call to live in light of God's Calendar of Redemption.

It is a call to live in the full light of heaven's reality: **The world's Headlines ultimately do not matter— because** Jesus came! Jesus is here! Jesus is coming back! And until HE COMES BACK WE MUST BE FOCUSED ON HIS BUSINESS! And as we do, we will be INVINCIBLE UNTIL HE CALLS US HOME!

Let us go forward DELIGHTING in Him, RESTING in Him, and LABORING until the Master comes!

Great Grace to each and every one! James Bell

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.

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, *April 11, 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 For April 9, 16, 23, 30

Sunday, April 9:

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service

Noon Covered Dish meal 1pm - Early Afternoon Service

Sunday, April 16: RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

9:30am - Church-wide BRUNCH

10:45am - Worship Service **and the LORD'S SUPPER**

Sunday, April 23: 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am -
Worship Service // EVENING HOME GROUPS

April 30: 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship
Service

Noon Covered Dish meal

**5:30pm - 7:30pm FAITHFUL MEN'S MONTHLY
FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**