



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No.15, April 11 , 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."***

FULL SALVATION at the LORD'S TABLE!

The historical Birth of Christ, the Death, and the Resurrection of Christ were, in the eyes of the masses, actually *non-events* in their own time:

**** Jesus was born** in a run-of-the-mill barn in a remote village, unknown, and unnoticed. **** Jesus died** the death of a typical convict, just another cross erected by a Roman government famous for executing anyone who FIT THE STATUS QUO. **** The resurrection** of Jesus also went unnoticed, since He only appeared to a select few.

INTERESTINGLY, the New Testament Church never used these moments in Christ's life as Big Events to boost HIGH ATTENDANCE! DO WE UNDERSTAND that Jesus does not call us

to put on religious productions or to be spectators at religious productions?

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING that the Birth, the Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus are all hugely significant to the Christian faith; and yet, when it comes to how Jesus wants to be remembered we see that, 1. Neither Jesus nor His disciples set up any sort of celebration of His birth, nor of his resurrection. 2. JESUS DID and DOES COMMAND the celebration of His crucifixion!

DOES IT NOT STRIKE ANYONE as just a little bit strange that the modern church has deeply ingrained MASSIVE TRADITIONS with no New Testament warrant; and that the modern church is, apparently, content to be uninformed or unimpressed by the command of Jesus, “This do in remembrance of Me!”?

WITH THE LORD’S SUPPER, we celebrate, (IN NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT of Old Testament prophecy and practice), all SEVEN of the FEASTS OF THE LORD! At the LORD’S TABLE, FULL SALVATION is set before us! NO WONDER Jesus commands, **“THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME!”**

I. [LEVITICUS 23:4-5] PASSOVER: 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!” The Israelite deserved death as much as the Egyptian; AND WE deserve death and Hell as much as anyone! **HAVE YOU SEEN THAT?** Only when you do, will you flee to Christ for His blood to pay your sin debt! God the Father satisfied His own holy wrath by the blood of His Son! THE SON willingly laid down His life! As a result, ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST are delivered from satan’s grasp and his kingdom of darkness! SIN’S penalty is paid; and sin’s power is broken! **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: 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— BUT ALSO, the power of sin and satan is broken! When Israel went out of Egypt, 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. LET US put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7).

2. **LET US** live a life of feeding on Christ who has no leaven.

3. **LET US** live a life of total dependence.

4. **The LORD'S TABLE reminds us of these things!** *** 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!

NOTE: 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 that's not all! For in the fall of the Jewish year came (5) the Feast of Trumpets, (6) The Day of Atonement, and (7) 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. LEVITICUS 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! THUS, LET US BE FOUND IN FAITHFUL SERVICE, UNTIL HE 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 25, 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 16, 23, 30

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**