



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No. 33, August 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."***

## **JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK— AM I READY!? Luke 17:20-33**

**WAY BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE PROPHET AMOS... among the people of ISRAEL there were many who wanted MESSIAH to come. THEY WERE** Worshippers— not scoffers. Yet they were also idolaters, unholy, materialistic, with no compassion. And so, **IN REALITY**, the day of the Lord would be to them judgment.

READ SOME OF THE sobering WORDS FROM THE PROPHET AMOS:  
Amos 5:18-24; Amos 6:1-7; Amos 8:11-12.

The Bible is full of accounts of God pouring out JUDGEMENTS upon His backslidden people. **CORRECT, it's true**— the true saints of God are not destined to the wrath of eternal condemnation. And **NEITHER** will they be the subjects of His end-time wrath against the wicked. **NEVERTHELESS**, how solemn are the words of God: (Joel 2:11-18) | Peter 4:17-18

(NKJV) “**For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God;** and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

FRANKLY, WHEN IT COMES TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST— there is one issue that is more important than all others: **Am I truly ready for the coming of Jesus Christ?**

**REALITY:** Jesus may come for me or for you today and call us into eternity long before the rapture — regardless of the timing of the rapture — **AM I ... ARE YOU READY?**

**REMEMBER:** There were Ten virgins— all appeared to be saved and ready; all waiting for the Bridegroom. BUT... 50% of them shut out! **Not ready!** JESUS WARNS THAT many shall say, “Lord, Lord...” But Jesus will say, “I never knew you!” **NOT READY!** (Matthew 7:21-23) ARE YOU READY?

Will you be able to stand firm while the whole world crumbles? - Heb. 12:26-29.

**BE READY: BE SURE that** you are saved! Salvation is by grace, through faith; and unto good works (Eph. 2:1-10; John 10:27-28).

**CULTIVATE PRAYING:** Here is the pattern of the Model Prayer (Matt. 6:5-13).

**CULTIVATE** a life of intimacy with Jesus the coming Bridegroom (I John 3:1-3).

**CULTIVATE** a life of soul-winning and soul-building. Matt. 24:14; Matt. 24:37-39

## **LUKE 17:20-37— WARNINGS and PREPARATIONS!**

**1. BE PREPARED in the inward ‘kingdom’ of your heart: Luke 17:20-21**— No one will ever know the exact day when Jesus is coming back, No one will ever experience the Kingdom of God as the result of humans saying, “Look! Here it is! Here are the signs!” INSTEAD: 17:21b — Behold! The Kingdom of God, the rule of God **is first and foremost**, right now inside those who are truly saved- (Rom. 14:17). “For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

### ***IS JESUS CHRIST ENTHRONED IN MY HEART?***

**2. PATIENCE and ENDURANCE: Luke 17:23-25**— While the Jews were looking for a glorious earthly kingdom, Jesus told His disciples that hard times were just ahead, causing believers to long for Christ’s return. Down through the centuries and in this present hour, **God’s true saints have to learn to light candles of patience and to wait!** (James 5:7-11; Luke 21:12-19; Revelation 6:9-11; Romans 8: 18; 38-39)

IT IS THE EVIDENCE OF HISTORY THAT thousands upon thousands of saints have found fellowship with Jesus sweetest and most precious when in some fiery furnace of persecution... OR IN SOME FURNACE OF TRIAL!

**Jesus teaches us: WHEN we follow HIM,** our endurance will be tested! We will be weaned from this world. We will long for HIS return. We wait for what or who we treasure! Let’s be honest:

**Are we Waiting? Longing? Hoping? Looking** for the return of Christ? MANY are not— THEY have on this earth everything you want!

O FLEE TO CHRIST BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

**3. BEWARE OF FALSE Prophets and False MESSIAHS: Luke 17:23.**

One of the realities of living in the period of time from Pentecost until the Second coming of Christ is that false prophets and messiah's will abound! MILLIONS MARCH TO SOME FORM OF A RELIGION OF WORKS. They imagine that they are basically good. They reject that they, along with all others, are born WICKED SINNERS. GOD SAYS: Ephesians 2:1-10. **ALSO: Many prophecy preachers** focus on pin pointing EARTHLY SIGNS and dates... rather than genuine HEART preparation for the coming of Christ— AVOID such like a plague!

**4. SUFFERING, THEN GLORY:** LUKE 17: 24-25— ON THE DAY OF His sudden return, the glory of CHRIST'S countenance will penetrate everywhere! HOWEVER, Jesus says in verse 25— He must suffer! What a contrast! Heavenly glory and majesty— **but first, suffering, rejection, and death. And suffer He did (Isa. 53)!** AND JESUS SAYS TO HIS REDEEMED ONES, THOSE WHOM HE SAVES: PHIL. 1:29; Matthew 10: 16-39... that SUFFERING FOR CHRIST is a high honor, A GIFT... Phil. 1:29... AND comes prior to GLORY!

**5. BEWARE OF ATTACHMENT TO THIS PRESENT WORLD!** IN LUKE 17:26-30, Jesus gives a very clear picture of the hearts of men just prior to His Second Coming.

**Verses 26-30— As in Noah’s day**, the great masses of people will be engrossed in earthly, material affairs and will not heed any warning to get ready to meet God.

**Finally, suddenly and un-expectantly**— the judgment of God came and the door of the ark was shut and their day of grace had ended!

**Friends, it is ESPECIALLY perilous to live in a materially wealthy society! (Luke 18:24-27) How many of us** this past week did any eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and/or building? According to the Word of God, what is wrong with these? **Nothing!**

**AHHH... BUT HOW MANY OF US** are prone to get more engrossed in and taken up with these RATHER than with God? In the American culture, the great temptation is to become absorbed in the ordinary materialistic affairs of life□ Things like work, comfort, cars, houses, sports...EVEN family and friends. **With these**— we bless God! **Without these**— we question God! **With them**— we forsake God!

\*\*\* Let us beware (Luke 12:15-21). \*\*\* WE MUST ASK: Is God calling me a “fool”? (I Tim. 6:6-19; Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:22-25; Luke 17:31-33.

**NOTICE, Luke 21:25-26. Why are they afraid? BECAUSE all they have lived for is passing away! Luke 17:32— Remember Lot’s wife!** What happened? **Can we put it in the terms of our day?** She was having to leave behind her FANCY house, her antiques, her jewelry, her fine clothes, her new car, her swimming pool, her pets, her favorite restaurants, her stamp collection, her ladies club, and society friends. It was just too big a price! **She had tolerated her compromising husband because, after all, he was so non-offensive AS A**

**BELIEVER that he was highly esteemed in Sodom!** BUT... How embarrassing to have angels come to your house, cause such a scene and make your husband a half-way fanatic! It was all too much, so she turned back! The week before, she might have testified at the First church of Sodom of how much she loved God! **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE.** She was attached in her heart— to a doomed city; to a doomed culture; and to doomed friends! **In value, she placed earth above heaven!** What about us? Her treasure, her life was in Sodom! Where is ours? (I John 2:15; James 4:4; LUKE 17:33; Matt. 10:39; Matt. 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; John 12:25.

### **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!**

Modern Sodom is powerful and easily becomes attached to our hearts!

We want popularity with Sodomites.... Especially this segment: Luke 17:28!

We want their respect.

We might get elected mayor!

We want our jobs; we want food!

WE WANT OUR ENTERTAINMENT and SPORTS!

### **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!**

**“It is only when we daily die to our personal aims and ambitions and selfishness and self-preservation; and instead, spend our lives for Christ and for others for JESUS' SAKE— only then are we really living and only then are we ready to live in these days!”**

**The world says:** Glory in science. Glory in money. Glory in power. Glory in position and popularity. Glory in sports, leisure, clothes, cars, etc.

Jesus says,

**6. “Glory in the cross!”** This is the sixth word of preparation. This alone is sufficient preparation for the coming of Christ (Gal. 6:14)

**THE RETURN OF CHRIST: The important thing is not when, but that the inward rule of Christ be in our hearts:** 1. HEART PREPARATION 2. Patience and Endurance  
3. BEWARE of false prophets 4. Suffering— then glory. 5. Beware of attachment to this world! 6. Glory in the cross.

**COME LORD JESUS! Grace to all in Christ! / James / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://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.

**WEDNESDAYS:** ☐ 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; ☐ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— (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! **[Luke 10]** ... Cindy Bell, teaching. **NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, August 22, 2017 @ 11:00am.**

**LOCATION: NOW, YOU CAN DRIVE IN FROM JOSLIN OR HAWKINS AVENUE!** Park at the BACK of church, come in

**DOUBLE DOORS under the AWNING... Door will be UNLOCKED by 10:30am... and locked back at 11:10am**

**MEN:** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! *{STUDYING the Epistle of SECOND and THIRD John}* AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

## **Sunday Services: August 20, 27:**

**\*\*\* AUGUST 20 — 9:30am** - Sunday School

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

**NO Noon MEAL; NO 1:00pm Service**

**5:00PM-7:00PM— HOME GROUPS**

**\*\*\* AUGUST 27**

**— 9:30am** - Sunday School

**10:45am** - Worship Service

**Noon MEAL**

**1:00pm, Early Afternoon Service**

**5:30PM-7:30PM— FAITHFUL MEN,**

**16 Concepts of a New Testament Church**