



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 39, September 26, 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."***

Psychology: the Study of the Soul (Part 4) Praise and Sanity!

Daniel 4:34-37(NKJV ³⁴ ...”At the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding [Reasoning, **SANITY**] **returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:** For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation. ³⁵All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. **No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”**

³⁶ At the same time **my reason [SANITY] returned to me**, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me...

³⁷ **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven**, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. **And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**”

We learn in Daniel 3:26-30, that Nebuchadnezzar BECAME one who PRAISED GOD! LATER, he reverted back to SELF-PRAISE — **AS A RESULT, GOD took his sanity! (Dan. 4:30-33)**

But... God would not do that today, would He?

Romans 1:21-22 unfolds a dramatic, deepening, and far-reaching decline into paths of utter INSANITY. STUNNINGLY, every foul and evil action and attitude listed in Romans 1:21-32 is given as a judgment for REFUSING to submit to God as GOD; and as judgment for REFUSING to be THANKFUL TO GOD!

Back in DANIEL 4:34-37, when Nebuchadnezzar RESUMED PRAISING GOD— HIS SANITY WAS RESTORED! **ARE WE LISTENING? Pride**— (THE PRAISE OF SELF, displacing the PRAISE OF GOD), **led to insanity!**

BUT There came a day when Nebuchadnezzar ‘lifted up his eyes to heaven’ in an obvious change of heart, repenting— WHICH IS A WAY WE GIVE GENUINE PRAISE TO GOD! [When we repent, we are bowing our hearts to God with the ‘AMEN’ of worship— ‘Lord you are right; I was wrong; I submit; you are worthy; that’s genuine praise!]

One translation says, “And I Nebuchadnezzar, Raised my eyes to heaven **and returned to my RIGHT MIND!**” A Paraphrase reads: “At the end of seven years, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, **and my SANITY returned**, and I praised and worshiped the MOST HIGH GOD, and honored Him who lives forever...!”

1. GOD had initially given him sanity.
2. God took it away in judgment.
3. God restored his sanity!

When we read the account of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel and then reads Romans 1:21-32— IT IS OBVIOUS:

All the poison that paralyzes the mind, wrecks the consciousness, and rules the behavior of multitudes of

TORTURED SOULS is BRED and GROWS in an atmosphere of REFUSING to submit to God and refusing to give THANKS to and PRAISE to God!

Yes, there are occasions where a person may have a genuine, organic, physical issue that can radically affect one's mind—such as a tumor on the brain or some other genuine physical malady.

(Go back and re-read, article 1 and 2 in this series which give a number of quotes and insights from Charles H. Spurgeon who had many serious mind and body battles; and he faced this through Christ!) BUT REGARDLESS... for most of us... most of the time— **to the degree that we choose to walk in** paths of pride, stubbornness, self-pity, arrogance, carnal fears, ingratitude, etc. ... -- **TO THAT SAME DEGREE SANITY WILL TAKE LEAVE and the seeds of insanity will take root.** GOD HAS ORDAINED 'sowing and reaping!' (Gal. 6:7-9)

MORE THAN WE LIKE TO ADMIT, we are **prone to allow** various expressions of PRIDE to stampede in our minds, unprotested and unchecked ... and in fact, we EXCUSE them. How many of us have ever seriously heeded this warning? BEWARE! LESS, "**... any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**" (Hebrews 12:15)

BITTERNESS and SANITY do not dwell in the same temple!

Submission to God, coupled with THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to God DECENTRALIZES SELF and enthrones the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, with His 9-fold expressions of GLORIOUS SANITY.

Galatians 6:19-23

Here is CENTRALIZED-SELF, WHICH is insanity: ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* ²⁰ *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* ²¹ *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:*

Note: While any Christian may fall into pits of the above... Any professing Christian who LIVES IN and continues in such pits are revealing that they are not born again and will not enter heaven! (Galatians 6:19-23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Here is DECENTRALIZED SELF, which is glorious SANITY: ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

SUBMISSION to God as God and Thanksgiving/PRAISE to God is a DOUBLE-EDGED AX WHICH CUTS and DESTROYS THE

ROOTS of mental/emotional insanities which are so very destructive.

SUBMISSION to God as God and Thanksgiving/PRAISE to God is a powerful disinfectant that kills on contact germs which grow into serious mental illnesses and insanity!

SUBMISSION to God as God and Thanksgiving/PRAISE to God DECENTRALIZES SELF and **CENTRALIZES GOD and HIS LOVE in the patterns of our THINKING and behavior!** (Portions of the above were edited from Jack Taylor in *The Hallelujah Factor*, PAGE 122-123)

THE NEGATIVE REALITY IS THIS□ TO THE DEGREE THAT WE FOCUS ON SELF... THE MORE OFF BALANCE... INSANE... MENTALLY ILL, WE BECOME!

LET'S BE HONEST: We live in a very self-centered... Me-centered world— Wealth for me! Fun, GOOD TIMES for me! Programs for me, my and mine! Rights for me! THERE ARE MANY DANGEROUS CULTS IN THE WORLD... BUT NONE OF THEM ARE AS DEADLY AS THE LARGEST CULT IN THE WORLD: **THE CULT OF SELF!** (2 Timothy 3: 1-5)

AGAIN, NOT ALL... BUT BEHIND A MULTITUDE of emotional/mental disorders is an over-occupation, a pre-occupation with self. MANY FORMS OF DISCOURAGEMENT AND DEPRESSION are rooted in the destructive MIND SET OF I did not get my way... You did not please me... I WAS NOT GIVEN WHAT I

BELIEVE I DESERVED. TO BE SELF-CENTERED IS TO BE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE and destructive of others!

PRIDE CENTRALIZES SELF! IN WONDERFUL CONTRAST: Submission to God, Thanksgiving to and Praise to God DECENTRALIZES SELF! **GENUINE WORSHIP AND PRAISE TO GOD SHIFTS OUR WHOLE MENTAL FOCUS FROM SELF TO GOD!**

WORSHIP, THANKSGIVING, AND PRAISE TO GOD WILL PRODUCE FORGETFULNESS OF SELF AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD, WHICH EQUALS PEACE OF MIND AND THAT IS SANITY!

WHERE DO WE LIVE?

From his prison cell, the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Philippian Christians, did not share the actual address of the prison. Yet, he did share 'his address' - From his epistle, we can conclude that his testimony would be, ***"I LIVE at the corner of Philippians 1:12 and 1:21!"***

Phil. 1:12- "All that has happened to me is that THE GOSPEL MIGHT BE ADVANCED!" Phil 1:21- "To me, to live is Christ; and to die is gain!"

YOU and I LIVE... either at the corner of Phil. 1:12 and 1:21 Or At the corner of Phil 2:21 and 3:18-19!

***** Phil. 2:21- “For all SEEK THEIR OWN and not the things of Christ!”**

***** Phil. 3:18-19- “They walk... as enemies of the Cross of Christ... their end is destruction, their god is their belly, they glory in what they should be ashamed of; and are focused on EARTHLY THINGS!”**

SOME WHO DEMONSTRATED THE POWER OF PRAISE TO GOD:

Stephen, unashamedly preached the gospel, giving PRAISE TO GOD AS HE RECOUNTED GOD’S FAITHFUL DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL...(ACTS 7:1-50). As a result the crowd greatly loved him! **NO! They were angry and they began to rail on him with their angry words...** AND GOD SHOWED UP... He’s always there... but He manifests Himself when Christians praise Him in the hour of trial... ACTS 7:55-56

NOW THE CROWD REALLY LOVES HIM! NO! Acts 7:57-58a...59a
And STEPHEN: ACTS 7: 59-60. ***O...IT’S AMAZING WHAT PRAISING CAN DO!***

STEPHEN’S PRAISE DID NOT CHANGE THE CROWD THAT DAY. BUT IT SURE DID EMPOWER STEPHEN.....SUPERNATURALLY!

Paul and Silas lay beaten, bleeding, and bound in a dark prison— SO MUCH FOR THE VISION OF TAKING THE GOSPEL TO MACEDONIA!

But at midnight they sang and MIRACLES UNFOLDED! **“O, IT’S AMAZING WHAT PRAISING CAN DO!”** *[It’s amazing what praising can do. Halle-lujah, halle-lu-jah! It’s amazing what praising can do. Hal-le-lu-jah! I don’t worry when things go wrong, Jesus fills my heart with song! And it’s amazing what praising can do. Hal-le-lu-jah!]*

AND WHAT ABOUT FAMILY LIFE: In families bad or difficult situations become destructive and even deadly— SO LONG AS WE FOCUS ON SELF! WHY? BECAUSE, WHEN SELF IS CENTRAL... ONLY THE WORKS OF THE FLESH WILL FOLLOW:

Gal. 6:19-21

WHEN GOD IS CENTRAL AND PRAISE TO GOD IS THE NON-NEGOTIABLE... YES-- There may be suffering for Christ’s sake... BUT MIRACLES HAPPEN!

PRAISE TO GOD is absolutely vital to SANITY!

The option is SELF FOCUS....AND TO BE SELF-CENTERED is to be self-destructive and destructive of others. Again, WHEN SELF IS CENTRAL....ONLY THE WORKS OF THE FLESH WILL FOLLOW!

Again, in glorious reality: AN UNMOVING FOCUS AND PASSION ON GIVING PRAISE AND HONOR TO GOD IS ABSOLUTLY VITAL TO MIRACLES OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS, and SANITY IN THE HOME and in the CHURCH!

Abounding Grace to all!

James

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... (Enter via double doors by gym)** ... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... Cindy Bell, teaching. THE REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2017: **TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17, 31, and November 7... all @ 11:00am.** Park at the BACK of church, come in DOUBLE DOORS under the AWNING... **Door UNLOCKED by 10:30am... locked back at 11:10am**

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Present Study— The Epistle of**

JUDE} AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

SUNDAY SERVICES OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 —

October 1— 9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service / **Noon MEAL**

October 8— 9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service / **Noon MEAL**

October 15— 9:30am - Sunday School

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

NO MEAL /// 5:00PM, HOME GROUPS

October 22— 9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service / **Noon MEAL**

5:30PM-7:30PM— FAITHFUL MEN,

16 Concepts of a New Testament

Church

October 29— 9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service /// **NO MEAL**

6:00PM, FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING OF SCRIPTURES AND PRAISE!

