



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No. 46, November 14, 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."***

Multitudes are PERISHING! How the Lost are Won!

SITUATION: The streams of culture are flooded with masses on their way into deepening addictions, bondages, hopelessness, cruelty, hate, and ultimately, to eternal destruction in Hell. The masses are PERISHING! **QUESTION:** How can a local Bible-believing Church be a tool of God in the rescue of the perishing? **RESPONSE— FIRST of all, we Christians must remember: *We once were as the lost are!* Yes, the lost people of our world are still dead in their sins.** The lost live in their sin, love their sin, they feed their flesh, and they listen to the devil. They follow the fashions that feed the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. They obey this world's unseen ruler who works among and in the disobedient. They indulge the cravings of their earthly nature, carry out the prompting of their fallen nature, and they abide under the wrath of God. (Eph. 2:1-3)

QUESTION: You who are already in Christ— how did you ever escape from being **DEAD** in sin; **Dedicated**/addicted to the carnal

fashions of the world; **Demonized**/obeying satan; **Disobedient**/rebellious against God; **Dominated** by natural, fleshly appetites; **Desiring** to heed the impulses of evil and **Doomed** under the just and holy wrath of God?

How did you ever escape such a condition?

Moreover, even if you were a religious ‘good’ guy, like Nicodemus — you were blind and not able to **see** or **enter** the kingdom of God! (John 3:3-7) You were but a ‘NATURAL’ man, woman, youth, or child— UNABLE to receive the things of the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:14) YOU HATED GOD! (Rom. 8:5-7)

"Natural" men, women, youth, and children reject the teaching and ministry of God's Word. As 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 informs us, the things of God are nonsense to them. They do not see the value of their souls; they are unable to grasp the truth of God about life, about God, about themselves, etc. They live in different centuries, countries, and cultures. **But what they ALL have in common is that they are all dead in sin!** How is it possible that anyone ever escapes from such a HOPELESS condition? **The escape is an absolute miracle from God, as set forth in Ephesians 2:4-10!**

MIRACLE! In spite of their being DEAD IN SIN— for 2000+ years, Jesus Christ has been and is building His church *right in the midst* of such a world as we have described! Moreover, when all is complete, **Jesus will have saved** a numberless multitude out of every kindred, tongue, tribe, and people. **And He plants**, grows and harvests His glorious WHEAT while simultaneously **satan is sowing an abundance of TARES!** (Matthew 13:24-30)

In fact, MANY professing Christian pastors and people will one day hear Jesus say, "I never knew you!" **Jesus says so!**

(Matthew 7:21-23)

IN LIGHT OF THESE REALITIES— without a doubt, a most significant question for the saints of God in Christ is this: HOW can we reach DEAD FOLK for CHRIST? How are "God haters" (Romans 8:7) changed into God lovers?

One Method Basically Says Something Like This: The people of our day are just not "buying" the model of ministry that seemed to work so well in the early days of the Church as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Yes, thousands came to Christ in those days and the Church spread almost like wildfire. **However, it seems to us that their methods got many of them killed! And it seems to us that the church is dwindling down, so we have to get relevant.**

Therefore, during the fourth century, a great VISIBLE church burst forth with MASSIVE BAPTISMS and with GREAT IMPRESSIVENESS, as Constantine the Great and the apostate church embraced the idols, the practices, the religion, and the loves of the pagan masses. Of course, they 'christianized' it all. And who can argue with success? Now, the church became BIG and POWERFUL, ALIVE, EXCITING, and was no longer persecuted. Many years later, in 2017, there is a fresh FRENZY to be relevant, BASED upon what the lost love. The lost masses of this generation are not turned on to Biblical Christianity; but they are turned on to entertainment!

And so, for example, "How do we capture lost children/teens?"

The highly 'successful' answer is— O, we will keep the message, but we must change the method! We will capture their

attention with extreme sports, drama, rock bands with hi-tech video, humorous drama, sports stunts, etc. We will give them hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza... and, of course, then give them a high powered emotion packed "gospel message"— administered by professionals who know how to 'draw the net'! **DRAW THE NET:** 1. Pull on the emotions and get them down an aisle! 2. Lead them through a quick easy gospel and get them to repeat a prayer. 3. Play 'God' and PRONOUNCE them as saved and get them baptized.

REALITY: Not surprisingly MOST of these converts remain in love with and enslaved to the world. It's Constantine's method for the 21st century! **It is quite clear that the New Testament Church did not use such methods. THE NEW TESTAMENT METHOD?** — The GOSPEL personally experienced and the GOSPEL lived out and boldly proclaimed— those first disciples boldly filled their towns and turned their world upside down! (Romans 1:14-17; 1 Cor. 3:6-9) **In the Gospel of God there was (And there still is!) quickening HOLY SPIRIT power to awaken the dead, set prisoners free, and make them lovers of Jesus.**

Moreover, not only did the Apostolic Church use the GOSPEL ALONE to arrest the world's attention and bring men, women and youth to conversion, but she also relied upon the GOSPEL ALONE to hold men, women, and youth to their commitment and to build the Church! (Romans 12:1-2)

QUESTION: If the desire is for 'WHEAT' and not for 'TARES'— **"How do we capture the attention of lost dead-in-their-sins teens and adults?" AN EXAMPLE FROM CHURCH HISTORY:**

On June 10, 1535, a special proclamation was made, giving the decree that anyone who had baptized others and refused to recant would be put to death by fire. And any who aided the Anabaptists

with hospitality would beheaded, or in the case of women, drowned... all of this to the end desire that this "damned sect of Anabaptists" might be exterminated. And so, hundreds were being burned, beheaded and/or drowned. **One day a 14 year old lad joined a crowd who were watching an Anabaptist being executed at the stake.** The man was chained, but he had an obvious expression of peace, if not actual joy, on his face. **With a clear voice he affirmed his faith in Christ; and as the tormentors were about to light the fire, the man prayed:** "*O Father and LORD, endue me with thy Spirit for this trial. Do not punish these who mistreat me today, but bring them also to the faith of Christ. Accept me now in thy grace.*" And so, he died a martyr for Christ.

As the 14 year old lad left that scene, he was awed by the man's faith! Not long afterwards, this lad, Cornelis Aertsz de Man, found a gathering of the Anabaptists and joined them for evening Bible Study. (They did not have a 'fun, fun, fun' youth department.) He was placed right in the midst of the adults, who along with their whole families were in serious study of the Word of God! THE REPORT: "***Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word of God, their joy in life, and their concern for love and moral integrity, all excited him!***" Soon, Cornelis was converted to Christ. His family was alarmed; but soon they could only admire his **gracious disposition, the love and purity of his life, His diligence in studying the Scriptures, and the joy with which he shared his new relationship with Christ.**

By age 17, Cornelis's faith was so strong that the religious authorities of the Roman Catholic institution felt they had to stop him. So, he was arrested. They sought diligently to get him to recant and return to Catholicism. One day, the Roman Catholic

leaders lined the courtroom and promised Cornelis a **future position and honor if** he would renounce the simple Bible-based faith of the Anabaptists. Cornelis replied: "**There is no higher position than to be a child of God and no greater honor than to be a voice for Him.**" Ultimately, they tortured young Cornelis to the extreme and finally at age 21, he was burned. (Story from **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH**, by Myron S. Augsburger)

The GOSPEL, the reality of JESUS CHRIST experienced and manifested through the true saints of God **is the POWER OF GOD!** No matter the culture, the human traditions or the loves and likes of the lost— **when GOD SATURATED adults, youth, and children live and give the gospel— the power of God to transform is RELEASED!**

Cornelis was but a teen; but many were brought to Christ through his witness. HE AND MANY OTHERS HAD REALITY! They were not bored.

By being IN CHRIST and by not grieving the Holy Spirit— they possessed the power to **Attract**, the power to **Repel** and the power to **Overcome**, even as in the Acts of the Apostles. The gospel and gospel transformed lives boldly proclaiming Christ is the divine method: Romans 1:14-17; Acts 2:37-47; 4:23-33.

THIS IS THE ONLY MODEL OF MINISTRY THAT HAS EVER YIELDED SIGNIFICANT FRUIT THAT REMAINED! This model of ministry is what is modeled for us in the New Testament. **It is the model that is called for in every Epistle and in the LAST WORDS OF JESUS to His church, as recorded in Revelation 2-3.**

It is the will of God for SOUTHSIDE IN GALLATIN, (and for the Bride of Christ in the 21st century where ever she is found), to also experience the restored Power of the Gospel.

Even as among the Anabaptists it is the will of God for our adults and youth to be experiencing:

1. Witness of faith; **2.** Serious Bible Study; **3.** Joy in life; **4.** Concern for love and moral purity; **5.** Gracious disposition; **6.** Love, Devotion, Joy in sharing Christ, and **7.** And a settled conviction **that,**

"There is no higher position than to be a child of God; and no greater honor than to be a voice for Him!"

WE MUST 'MODEL' THE GOSPEL TO A LOST AND DYING WORLD; AS WE GO FORTH WITH BOLDNESS TELLING THE GOSPEL...

THEREFORE, LET US:

1. Pray to the LORD OF THE HARVEST; being READY to go as lambs among wolves: Luke 10:2-3; John 4:34-38; Matt.28:18-20

2. Model love in our homes and churches for this is how the world will know that we are truly representing the Bride of Christ and not the Harlot: John 13:34-35. **This love is expressed via** the approximately 29 different 'One Anothers'... as we model genuine Christianity in our homes and other relationships, (Ephesians 5:18-33; 6:1-8) — OTHERS will be drawn to Christ!

3. Follow JESUS! He WILL make us fishers of men, fishers of the lost, male or female: Matt. 4:19. Disciples of Jesus become 'fishers of men'... and in a related fashion, as Paul instructed Timothy:

What I have taught you, teach to faithful men, who will in turn teach others, etc. (2 Tim 2:2)

4. KNOW THIS:

a. Tolerated, excused, un-repentent sin in a believer, in a Christian family, in a local Church— **STOPS joy and seals our lips from living and telling GOOD NEWS.** (Psalm 51:12-15)

b. **Repentance and REVIVAL** in the believer will dramatically empower evangelism efforts: Psalm 40:2-3; Psalm 51:12-15.

5. We must make RIGHT RESPONSES to persecution [Persecution: Acts 4:14-18]; historically, the fruit of right responses to persecution has been one of THE MOST EFFECTIVE tools for winning the lost! **RIGHT RESPONSES TO PERSECUTION:**

a. **Congregational prayer** where the focus is on worshiping God and resting in the sovereignty of God, Acts 4:24-28;

b. **Congregational prayer** where we only GLANCE at what the world is doing and then GIVE IT ALL TO GOD, Acts 4:29a;

c. **Congregational prayer FOR BOLDNESS** to speak forth the Word of God and to ask God to do whatever He desires so as to GET GLORY to His name, Act 4:29b-30

6. THE ABOVE are NO GUARANTEE of big or small numbers!

These are basics... Let us go forward in the faith... in the steps of Jesus!

Grace to all! 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— **(Enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE... (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)** ... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** the Gospel of Luke, 11:14-26! ... Cindy Bell, teaching. RESUMES on Tuesday, JANUARY 2, 2018, Tuesdays.

***** MEN:** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(Present Study — HEBREWS 11:1-40— LIVING BY FAITH!)** AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward! **Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING starting at 7:30am**

SUNDAY SERVICES:

☐ **November 19 —**

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER
[NO MEAL or Early Afternoon Service]

5:00 - 7:00pm— HOME GROUPS

☐ November 26 —

9:30am - Sunday School

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

5:30PM-7:30PM— FAITHFUL MEN,

Studying, 16 Concepts of a New Testament Church

WATCH, LISTEN to, SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

ADVANCE NOTICE for 2017 December Sundays:

1. Sundays, December 3 & 10 & 17— Regular schedule

SPECIAL Note: on 12/17— *IN PREPARATION for the LORD’S TABLE...*

** The Word of God will be preached;

**The Choir and/or others... will lead us in Special PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to GOD THE FATHER, For HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT OF JESUS!

2. Sunday, December 24:

9:30am- CHURCHWIDE BRUNCH in fellowship hall;

10:45am- WORSHIP

(During the Worship Hour, we will again COME TO the LORD'S TABLE... for when Jesus came to earth... HE WAS ON THE WAY to CALVARY!)

3. Sunday, December 31—

9:30am Sunday School and
10:45am Worship [NO MEAL]