



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No. 48, November 28, 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."***

**WE HAD GOOD INTENTIONS— BUT** we never experienced spontaneous joy and rejoicing about **a SAVIOUR from sin!**

Every December sincere preparations began in earnest for the annual Christmas pageant/drama... to be held at the Jewell Baptist church, with the next door Methodist joining in with us. **In the front of the auditorium there was always a very tall, beautifully decorated Christmas tree.** The entire church "exchanged names" and on the night of the pageant everyone brought gifts and placed them under the tree. **As the grand night approached,** the reality is that every child was filled with hope and excitement about what might be under the tree with their name on it— **A Saviour from sin was not on our minds!**

**The annual Christmas Pageant always followed the same order:** After a few carols were sung, the drama presentation would begin. Parents beamed with pride as their children acted out what was called "the Christmas Story." **AFTER** the drama, before any presents could be moved from under the Christmas tree, **one**

**of the church deacons would give the annual "*the real reason for the season*" speech!**

He would stress "why the tree and the mountain of presents were not the main event!" **TRUTH TIME:** His words, sincere as they were, could never overpower the reality of **the giant tree and the mountain of glistening presents, all begging to be opened!**

With duty done, the deacon would look out over the auditorium and choose several of the youth for the much treasured assignment of delivering the gifts! One or more of the deacons would pick up gifts, loudly call out the name on each present, and the youth would **speedy deliver** the gifts to the proper folks in the auditorium. Within moments, the sound of packages being opened filled the air, even as more names were called out and more presents were delivered.

**YES, in the hearts of us children— it was the most wonderful night of the year! The pinnacle of the evening was FINALLY taking place and would continue until every present had been distributed and opened. (Frankly, the adults loved it too!)** Then, we all quieted down for the closing words and prayer, which always dutifully reminded us yet again of "*the real reason why we celebrate Christmas.*" **AFTER THE CLOSING PRAYER, all us kids quickly got together for *SHOW AND TELL— NEVER for* any conversation or joy about a SAVIOUR FROM SIN!**

**YES, our** pastors preached sermons, the congregation sang Carols, the deacons exhorted, and everyone was sincere! **HOWEVER, the intended impact of all these words and prayers were soon lost or never heard because** the eyes and hearts of all children, teens, and adults were on a beautiful Christmas tree and a mountain of presents! **Likewise, in many a**

**Christian home**, right in front of a beautiful tree surrounded with presents begging to be opened— a sincere parent or grandparent will gather their family and say, **“Children, before we open the presents, I want you to give full attention as I read ‘the Christmas Story’, Luke 2, which is all about the birth of Jesus and is the real reason for Christmas!”** Then, with duty done, once again, ‘the main event’ takes place... with wrapping paper flying!

As for the folks at Jewell Baptist, none of us could ever bring ourselves to confess **the truth that on the nights of the annual Christmas Pageant and gift exchange— the tree and the presents were center stage, NEVER a Saviour from sin!**

**THE STARK REALITY IS THIS:** During or after our “Most wonderful night of the year” WE NEVER experienced spontaneous, overflowing joy and rejoicing about **a Saviour from sin!** **MOREOVER, year after year** we left ignorant of and unmoved as to the MANY REASONS why Jesus came! This tragedy continues to plague the masses. **WARNING:** Please do not attack or condemn this PLAGUE in others— rather, let each of us attack it in our own hearts!

Here is really great news: **A search in the Holy Word of God reveals at least 24 reasons why Jesus came!** May we all, meditate upon, rejoice in, and act upon them **so that JESUS HIMSELF is more and more Center Stage in our daily lives!**  
**JESUS Came,**

**1. To reveal God the Father to man:** No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, **He hath declared Him**, (John 1:18). **And he that sees Me sees Him** that sent Me, (John 12:45). Jesus said unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet you have not known

me, Philip? **He that has seen Me has seen the Father;** and how do you say then, Show us the Father, (John 14:9)?

**2. Because God the Father sent him:** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father has sent Me,** even so send I you, (John 20:21, John 3:16-17; 6:38).

**3. To be the Saviour of the world:** And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world,** (1 John 4:14).

**4. To preach the kingdom of God:** And He said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, **that I may preach** there also: for therefore came I forth, (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43).

**5. To bear witness to the truth:** Pilate therefore said unto Him, Are you a king then? Jesus answered, you say that I am a king. To this end was I born, **and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.** Every one that is of the truth hears my voice, (John 18:37).

**6. To be a light in the world: I am come a light into the world,** that whosoever believes on Me should not abide in darkness, (John 12:46).

**7. To fulfill the law:** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill, (Matthew 5:17).

**8. To do the will of His Father:** For I came down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him** that sent Me, (John 6:38).

**9. To be a divider of men:** Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: **I came not to send peace, but a sword.** For I

am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law, (Matt 10:34, 35)

**10. To seek and save those who are lost:** For the Son of man is come to **seek and to save that which was lost**, (Luke 19:10).

**11. To call sinners to repentance:** When Jesus heard it, He said unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance**, (Mark 2:17).

**12. To save sinners... really bad ones:** This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief, (1 Timothy 1:15)**. For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village, **(Luke 9:56)**. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved, (John 3:17).

**13. To minister and to give His life a ransom for many:** Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many, (Matthew 20:28).

**14. To finish the work of the Father:** Jesus said unto them, **My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work**, (John 4:34; John 17:4).

**15. To be the propitiation for our sins:** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, **and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**, (1 John 4:10).

**16. To put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself:** For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now

once in the end of the world hath He appeared **to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**, (Hebrews. 9:26).

**17. To take away our sins:** And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**: and in Him is no sin, (1 John 3:5).

**18. To die upon the Cross:** Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour: **but for this cause came I** unto this hour, (John 12:27).

**19. To redeem those under the law, that they might receive adoption of sons:** But when the fullness of the time was come, **God sent** forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **To redeem them** that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons, (Galatians 4:4, 5).

**20. That we might live through Him:** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent** His only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live** through Him, (1 John 4:9).

**21. That we might have life and have it more abundantly:** The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I AM come that** they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly, (John 10:10).

**22. To bless us by turning us away from sin:** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, **sent Him to bless you**, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities, (Acts 3:26).

**23. To destroy the works of the devil:** He that commits sin (as a continuing pattern of life), is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was**

**manifested**, (revealed), that He might destroy the works of the devil, (1 John 3:8).

**24. To make it possible for the righteousness of the law to be fulfilled in us through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit:** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, (Romans 8:3, 4). [A variety of sources used in preparing this article, including material from John Piper]

**HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOUR!**

James Bell / [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... (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.**

**\*\*\* MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (*DECEMBER Study — 24 Biblical Reasons Why JESUS Came!*) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning, walk forward! FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

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

[http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen\\_to\\_other\\_sermons\\_on\\_sermonaudio/](http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/)

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### **December SUNDAYS:**

**1. December 3— 9:30am** – Sunday School

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

**2. December 10— 9:30am** – Sunday School

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

**3. December 17— 9:30am** – Sunday School

**10:45am** – Worship Service / **No MEAL**

**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!

**4. December 24—**

**9:30am-** CHURCHWIDE BRUNCH in fellowship hall... bring 'breakfast-type' foods/snacks

**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!)

**5. December 31—**

**9:30am** Sunday School and

**10:45am** Worship [NO MEAL]