



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 3, January 16, 2018 / 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 Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

TO WHOM SHOULD OUR CHURCH BE RELEVANT?

SOUTHSIDE! We Exist to MAGNIFY, to worship the one true and living triune God; **to MAKE KNOWN** God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ to our neighbors and to the nations; **and to MOVE BELIEVERS in Jesus** toward Christian maturity and ministry.

We are to function as SALT and LIGHT in a DARK WORLD— letting the light and life of Jesus shine before men that they will see GOOD WORKS and glorify God! **If we are to indeed INFLUENCE OUR WORLD with the Gospel of Jesus Christ— we must be prepared to WALK THE TALK!**

SOUNDS FINE, BUT: THE CHURCH MUST BE relevant TO A CHANGING SOCIETY, says mega pastors, denominational leaders, books, and publications! **Ex-mega pastor, Rob Bell, CLAIMS that**, "...the church will continue to be even more IRRELEVANT when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago [THE BIBLE] as their best defense..." ROB BELL? ... go here to go deeper in seeing,

[The Appalling Apostasy of Rob Bell - CultureWatch](https://billmuehlenberg.com/2015/02/19/the-appalling-apostasy-of-rob-bell/)
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O... AND WHO HELPED ROB BELL GET ON THE BROAD ROAD TO APOSTASY?

Richard Mouw says, "If I were given the assignment of writing a careful theological essay on 'The Eschatology of Rob Bell,' **I would begin by laying out the basics of C.S. Lewis's perspective on heaven and hell**" (*Christian Post*, **March 20, 2011**). In the acknowledgements section of *Love Wins*, **Rob Bell writes, "... to my parents, Rob and Helen, for suggesting when I was in high school that I read C.S. Lewis."** (**By the way, C.S. Lewis** is loved with equal fervor by "conservative evangelicals," hell-denying emergents, 'Christian rockers', Roman Catholics, Mormons, and even some atheists. Much that Rob Bell is teaching today he first got turned in that direction from C.S. Lewis.)

[Some things you should know about C. S. Lewis! (May 1, 2010)

By Pastor Andy Foster / <http://www.standstillawhile.net/2010/05/cs-lewis/>]

PRAY FOR PASTORS and ENCOURAGE your pastor to be TRUE TO THE WORD OF GOD. FOR THE PRESSURE IS STRONG to give congregations STORIES and ENTERTAINMENT— **so as to be RELEVANT to modern society... so as to attract and keep crowds!**

NOAH! He was certainly NOT RELEVANT to his culture. He preached for at least 100 years and was not able to attract a crowd— **because HE DID NOT and WOULD NOT ADAPT to society in order to reach them.**

[Listen to Noah? Are you kidding? He is too negative! He is too radical. Besides, **how big a church has he built?** ...etc.] NOAH SIMPLY WALKED WITH GOD, OBEYED GOD, and PREACHED RIGHTEOUSNESS!

NOAH was and is a story of ROUSING SUCCESS at being totally irrelevant to society while being totally RELEVANT to God! MOREOVER, NOAH knew trying to please both would never work!

The world around us is in DARKNESS and DECAY. By Grace we are to be different! In great contrast to the lost multitudes of our Mission Field— as Christians we are to show forth HOLINESS and LOVE!

OUR METHOD is a radical DIFFERENCE from the dark, decaying masses.

BUT SADLY, strong worldly wisdom is declaring in the churches that the church needs to be different BY BEING MORE LIKE the world! More and more churches BOLDLY proclaim in their mass market advertisements: “WE ARE DIFFERENT!”

INDEED, many churches today are DIFFERENT— different from the Biblical Models of Church as God ordains church. They are more and more JUST LIKE the world.

R. E. Bieber stated: “How are you going to reach this generation unless you get with the times? **GET WITH THE TIMES?** The greatest need of “the times” is not ... more smooth, cool preachers ... who compromise the Word of God ... more prophecy hobbyists ... more promises of prosperity.

PLEASE LISTEN: The Kingdom of God **is not** worldly music sounds/flashing lights **or promises that you can have Jesus and keep your sin.** RATHER, GOD’S CALL TO US IS THIS: CLEAR PROPHETIC, BIBLICAL GOSPEL WORDS from real Christians who are crucified with Christ and being transformed, more and more into HIS LIKENESS!

THE KINGDOM OF GOD is..."... righteousness, and peace, and joy IN THE HOLY SPIRIT." (Romans 14:17) **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

comes in POWER; and that power is found nowhere, but IN THE CROSS... quickened by the Holy Spirit!

***** "For the preaching of the CROSS is to them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but to those of us who are saved it is the POWER OF GOD!" (1 Cor. 1:18)**

***** "... it PLEASED GOD by the foolishness of PREACHING to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21b)**

***** "But we PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, to the Jews a stumblingblock, and to the Greeks foolishness; BUT TO THEM WHICH ARE CALLED, both Jews and Greeks, CHRIST, the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)**

***** "*When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words of wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST and HIM CRUCIFIED.***

And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:1-5)

***** AGAIN, NOAH HELPS US WITH UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE OF RELEVANCE!** Noah preached 'righteousness' for about 100 years. Beyond his immediate family, he had no converts!

In his day, Noah's preaching would have been VOTED THE MOST IRRELEVANT PREACHING over the last 100 years!

However, the supreme issue is faithfulness to the Word of God regardless of whether or not there is a response, whether or not a

crowd comes to listen! We are in 2,000 years into the last days, **which Jesus says are LIKE the days of Noah.**

TO WHOM SHALL WE BE RELEVANT? GOD or MAN? By the grace of God, I shall seek to walk in the example of Noah! I hope you will also!

***** 2 Timothy 4:1-4—** “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the [living] and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

PREACH THE WORD; be instant in season, out of season; *[PRESS IT HOME ON ALL OCCASIONS, WELCOME OR UNWELCOME!]* reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; **but after their own lusts** shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

[ITCHING FOR THAT WHICH IS PLEASING TO THEIR CARNAL FLESH!] And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth,** and shall be turned unto fables.” *[FOOLISH STORIES, MYTHS]*

Throughout the history of man, what God says is usually OUT OF TOUCH with the masses!

***** It was so** in Noah's day.

***** It was so** in the days of the Prophets, even among those who were 'God's chosen people.'

***** It was so** when Jesus walked on earth. YES, they loved the healings, miracles, and 'dinner on the grounds'... but when Jesus set forth truth many walked with Him no more! (John 6)

***** TRAGIC TRUTH: TODAY, MANY CHURCHES want an Aaron...** For they are ready to make a GOLDEN IDOL and 'Aarons' are ready to lead congregations in a flesh-pleasing worship service! (See Ex. 32:1-35... especially verses 17-18; 2 Tim. 4:1-4)

Aaron was innovative and creative! He is the first pastor on record to install the discordant, inharmonious, unmelodious sounds of **man centered worship!** [JOSHUA THOUGHT it was the sounds of war; MOSES, having been trained in Egypt, knew it was the music of God-hating worship!] **Aaron and the whole congregation were well pleased!**

They had high attendance and awesome congregational participation! **However, then came God's judgment and God's wrath.**

AGAIN: Noah's preaching would have been VOTED THE MOST IRRELEVANT PREACHING! However, the supreme issue is faithfulness to the Word of God regardless of whether or not there is a response, whether or not a crowd comes to listen!

TRAGEDY IN 2018: We have many successful Aarons—'interesting' preachers who are 'master communicators' and the people love it and crowds sit at their feet; **but there is no, "Thus saith, the LORD!"**

(Note: The problem we face is not new! Check out-- Jer. 5:7-8, 12-13, 23-25, 30-31; 6:13-15)

WHAT IS GOD'S METHOD TO BUILD HIS CHURCH IN SUCH A WORLD AS OURS? Answer: The gospel experienced, lived, and preached by the redeemed— real Christians who are overflowing with His love, His holiness, His forgiveness, etc.

GOD'S METHOD is real Christians who know that the ONE TREASURE of the Christian faith is the GOSPEL; and that the GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD....! (Romans 1) **HOWEVER**, while Jesus continues to Build His Church by the exclusive power of the Gospel and by the agency of the Holy Spirit, **AN ENEMY PLANTS TARES:**

***** False apostles and deceitful workers** transform themselves into 'apostles of Christ' (2 Cor. 11:13-15)

***** In the olden times there were** false prophets; and the New Testament warns that

***** there 'shall be'... and MANY FOLLOW** their ways, so much so that discredit is brought upon the real truth! (2 Peter 2:1-22)

TODAY, there is a great and impressive HARLOT RELIGION SYSTEM... not limited to one denomination...for there is almost endless variety on the Broad Road to Destruction! (Matt. 7:13-29)

BOTTOM LINE: Which church— the Harlot or the Bride? **That determines our methods and our preaching.**

TO WHOM SHALL WE HAVE A PASSION TO BE RELEVANT— man or GOD?

Abundant Grace to one and all! James Bell

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, 12:13ff!** ... Cindy Bell, teaching. Next meeting on **Tuesday, 1/30 @ 11:00am, 2018.**

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(NEW STUDY: THE EPISTLE OF JAMES!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY, 2018

***** January 21—**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER S

NO covered dish meal /// **5:00pm— HOME GROUPS**

***** January 28—** 9:30am— Sunday School / 10:45am— Worship Service

NOON Covered dish meal

NOTE: We will 'restart' the Monthly Faithful Men's meeting in February...

SPECIAL NOTICE: After the meal on January 28, we need to have A CHURCH-WIDE 'MEMBERS/THOSE ATTENDING' MEETING. It is VITAL that ALL

be present for this meeting. This will be an 'Open Forum' meeting... where we as a body of believers will prayerfully consider some plans and ideas as to ministry; and consider some possible changes in various meetings... etc. MORE DETAILS will be coming....



SOUTHSIDE: ***"The Local Church and the Home UNITED together under the authority of God's Word and quickened by God's Spirit to be Ambassadors for Christ in the world!"***

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

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