



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 5, January 30, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / 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."***

Scripture Alone— Does God's Word Matter?

Simon Teng, a Facebook friend from Singapore, shared this excellent statement: **"We are not the first generation of people to face the challenge of competing truth claims.** In fact, Adam and Eve faced such a dilemma at the very beginning. **God had clearly said** to them "You shall surely die" if they were to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). **On the other hand, the Serpent said** the opposite to them: "You will not surely die" (3:4). *Instead of looking to God's revelation, Eve decided to investigate things further herself:* "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes ... she took of its fruit and ate" (3:6).

Make no mistake, the fall was not just a matter of Adam and Eve eating the fruit. At its core, the fall was about God's people rejecting God's Word as the ultimate standard for all of life."

As to '**Sola Scriptura**' or '**Scripture Alone**', A. A. Hodge rightly states, "That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, **and is to be interpreted, in its own light, and with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost**, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27), by each individual for himself; with the assistance, though not by the authority, of his fellow Christians. Creeds and confessions, as to form, bind only those who voluntarily profess them, and as to matter, **they bind only so far as they affirm truly what the Bible teaches, and because the Bible does so teach.**"

Charles Hodge, wrote: "...The Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is **the only infallible rule of faith and practice.**" These men and others rejoice in that which the Holy Spirit gave the Apostle Paul: ***"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*** (2 Tim 3:16-17)

The importance of Sola Scriptura! Loraine Boettner wisely states: "The answer that we are to give to the question, *"What is Christianity?"* depends quite largely on the view we take of Scripture. **If we believe that the Bible** is the very Word of God and infallible, we will develop one conception of Christianity. **If we believe that it [the Bible] is only a collection of human writings**, perhaps considerably above the average in its spiritual and moral teachings but nevertheless containing many errors, we will develop a radically different conception of Christianity, if, indeed, what we then have can legitimately be called Christianity. Hence we can hardly over-estimate the importance of a correct doctrine concerning the inspiration of the Scriptures." **THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**, the true church and NOT

the harlot, does not add to or take from the rule of God-breathed Scripture. **NOTE: Cults, Harlot Churches, and any others** who value their opinions over the pure revealed Word of God—ADD to and/or deny or subtract from and place themselves and/or their leaders OVER the Word of God. **Examples of such:** Mormonism, Catholicism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a growing number of Evangelicals, Baptists, Charismatics, etc. BY THE WAY: ***Sola Scriptura is not*** a denial of the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and enlightening the Church in accordance with THE HOLY SPIRIT'S own Word!

“What arguments do the Scriptures themselves afford in favor of the doctrine that they are the only infallible rule of faith? 1st. The Scriptures always speak in the name of God, and command faith and obedience! *** **2nd.** Christ and his apostles always refer to the written Scriptures, then existing, as authority, and to no other rule of faith whatsoever! — Luke 16:29; 10:26; John 5:39; Rom. 4:3; 2 Tim. 3:15. *** **3rd.** The Bereans are commended for bringing all questions, even apostolic teaching, to this test! — Acts 17:11; see also Isa. 8:16. *** **4th.** Christ rebukes the Pharisees for adding to and perverting the Scriptures! — Matt. 15:7-9; Mark 7:5-8; see also Rev. 22:18, 19, and Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Josh. 1:7.” (A. A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology, chapter 5, 1860*)

Does God give us the liberty to substitute our well-intended human ideas **in place of Scripture's divine revelation?** **The answer is, NO! EVEN SO,** more than we like to admit, we reserve for ourselves the right to determine what is and is not acceptable in worship and practice. **IF WE practice something AND IF WE don't see any harm or wrong in it— that settles it! It's our decision.** We believe that **if we** are pleased with something **and if we** are sincerely doing it as

worship to God— therefore God must be pleased, even though it is contrary to what He has revealed or commanded.

MOREOVER, we have a natural dislike for God's absolute authority. THUS, we are easy prey for deceptions, even as was Eve. *We easily fall in love with our ideas*, even as Cain; and even as Israel with their golden calf. **And it seems that many pastors today** take their cue from Aaron, *the great pragmatic facilitator*, who apparently believed that his calling was to please the congregation MORE than to obey God! (Ex 32:1-6)

A FEW EXAMPLES: * Every spring we have** a great host of the world's most respected preachers, (with Bibles in hand), preaching EASTER, which has nothing to do with Jesus or His death, burial, and resurrection! *** **Others disregard** the clear Word of God that only qualified men may serve as elders or deacons; thus, some churches are ordaining women pastors and even sodomite pastors. *** **More than a few** Baptist pastors, deacons, and others are members of the masonic lodge religion. *** **Many pay little attention to** the Words of Jesus as to the sacredness of marriage. *** **Every December, masses** in the churches, led by pastors, are more loyal to the traditions of men rather than they are to following New Testament example in simply and profoundly rejoicing in the SAVIOR WHO IS GOD WITH US, WHO CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN. *** **FEW HUSBANDS/WIVES** ARE STUDENTS of the Word of God so as to model the love of Christ in families and so as to TRAIN UP children in Biblical instruction and discipline. *** **INCREASINGLY RARE are the church members** who pay close attention to Biblical revelation as to loyalty to Christ expressed in loyalty to HIS BODY to which we say we are joined. *** **FEW REVEAL commitment and vision of our MISSIONARY CALLING** to be salt and light in a dark world, to be careful to ADORN the gospel,

and careful not to cause the name of Christ to be BLASPHEMED. **SADLY, *** WE GIVE 'LIP SERVICE'** to the Word of God; but way too little actual commitment to HEEDING the Word of God! **BUT ALL OF THIS AND MUCH MORE IS, 'OK' because,** it's what we believe and practice; and so regardless of what the Bible actually teaches— HE MUST BE PLEASED with us; because WE CERTAINLY ARE PLEASED WITH OURSELVES! **Moreover, we believe** that we accomplish much good by our traditions, for example, as we **set forth** our statistics of how many we say we got saved at an Easter egg hunt, etc. — that settles it. End of story. We are right and it is indeed our decision to do things our way. **Besides, we prayed** and many will proclaim, "The Lord led us!"

BUT LET US REMEMBER: *"Instead of looking to God's revelation, Eve decided to investigate things further herself: "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes ... she took of its fruit and ate" (3:6). **Make no mistake, the fall was not just a matter of Adam and Eve eating the fruit. At its core, the fall was about God's people rejecting God's Word as the ultimate standard for all of life.**"*

SERIOUS QUESTIONS: * 1. IF Bible truth is expendable in one area— what about in other areas as well? *** 2. IF the Bible is not our infallible guide and rule for doctrine and practice in one area— maybe it should not be in other areas as well! *** 3. IF we and our traditions** get to decide what is and is not acceptable doctrine and practice— is anything not left subject to us? *** **4. IF our beloved and 'successful' traditions** are embraced instead of obedience to the Word of God— isn't that making our will sovereign over God's will?

BOTTOM LINE: ***This article is about our/MY attitude toward the Word of God!*** It's about whether or not we will be guided solely by the Word of God, quickened by the AUTHOR OF THAT WORD, THE HOLY SPIRIT... **OR, will we guided by the Word of God, UNLESS we and our traditions are different from the revealed Word of God? BUT WHO CARES ABOUT ANY OF THIS? WHAT DOES IT MATTER?**

1. IT DOES NOT MATTER AT ALL— IF THE BIBLE IS NOT the God-ordained SOLE RULE OF FAITH! BUT IF 'SOLA SCRIPTURA' is true— then we must line up with Scripture.

2. DARE WE take these words of JESUS seriously? MARK 7:6-9— “... [IN] vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men... **Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.**”**

Abundant Grace to one and all! James Bell
www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

PLEASE NOTE: BE SURE TO CHECK THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES... as WHAT IS BELOW reflects the NEW SCHEDULING!

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

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)**

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Luke 12: 22-34! Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 @ 11:00am.** ENTER at the back of the church building, through double doors, under the Drive Thru Awning. *[Doors open at 10:30am... The doors are re-locked at 11:10am]*

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(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!**

THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS THE NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULES
Sundays in February:

***** February 4— [1st Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

NOON Covered dish meal (Noon meals will be ONCE a month, and on 1st Sundays)

***** February 11— [2nd Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

**5:30pm- 7:30pm— Monthly Faithful Men’s meeting
MOVES to Second Sunday Evenings [Next, 2/11.... Come in
‘iron steps’ door!]**

***** February 18— [3rd Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service & LORD’S SUPPER

HOME GROUPS meet on Third Sunday, most meet at 5:00pm

***** February 25— [4th Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

6:00pm- 7:00pm— NEW , MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE... for all the church family; but with a FOCUS on EQUIPING YOUNG COUPLES and YOUNG FAMILIES... with Biblical teaching in all areas of Family Life... and OLDER SAINTS helping in the equipping process; as well... as they being equipped to minister to the younger generation.

WE WILL NEED SOME COUPLES whose children are already grown... to serve in the Nursery... [Teens can also help!] so that ALL YOUNG couples will be free to participate in this special, monthly service.

FIFTH SUNDAYS: (The next one is April 29th)... We gather to SING, give testimonies, and share Scriptures.



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, and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

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