



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 8, February 20, 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."***

REJOICING IN FULL SALVATION! (THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD!)

*"Blessed/happy/fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, **who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized by the feasts**; they walk, O Lord, in the light and favor of your countenance."* (Ps. 89:15, Amp. Bible)

In Old Testament times— the celebrations of the seven feasts of God, (Leviticus 23), pointed to **what God would do when He sent His Son**. These feasts and all the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament era were designed **to convey one primary message— that** God is holy and that only by the shedding of innocent blood can sin be forgiven and fellowship with God be restored and experienced.

Like a lighthouse, the Feasts of the LORD, shine forth to remind all of God's redeemed children of God's 'SO GREAT' salvation— **1.** A salvation that has a definite beginning; **2.** A definite process; **3.** And a definite climax which lead into eternity with God!

REALITY: It is so easy to get entangled in the cares of this life and lose a proper sense of purpose and destiny. We easily find ourselves like a ship off course and CRASHING ON THE ROCKS OF SIN. WE NEED A COMPASS, WE NEED A MIGHTY LIGHTHOUSE! The seven feasts of the Lord set forth in Leviticus, Chapter 23, *(when received in New Testament fulfillment and application)*, **unveil full salvation and call us to delight ourselves in God Himself!**

*** **Leviticus 23:1-3— But first,** God has ordained a weekly celebration of worship. Here is the Biblical principle of God having designed man for work and rest. True, for the New Testament Christian— every day is a Sabbath rest! And yet, the Biblical call to work and to rest is still with us and greatly needed. **QUESTION:** How can I avoid the extremes of both paganism and Pharisee-ism?

ANSWER: Jesus is our perfect example on how to observe the *Sabbath rest principle*: **(1)** He worshiped. **(2)** He *did good to others*. **(3)** He allowed for necessary work. THE WORD OF GOD and the Holy Spirit will keep us from the Pharisee's bondage-filled ways and empower us into the liberty of WALKING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS!

NOTE: The New Testament Church usually worshiped on the First day of the week. Romans 14 and other New Testament verses show us liberty as to what specific day is our day of rest. In the New Testament the 'principle' of rest is preserved. IN **Isaiah 58:13-14, God gives us the essence of the Sabbath Rest principle—** *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, **Then you shall***

delight yourself in the LORD; *And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,... The mouth of the LORD has spoken.*” **NOTE:** In God’s economy, the Sabbath was NEVER about a set of rules but about cultivating a relationship with God. **Cultivating** relationships took time in the Old Testament era and we are no different! NO ONE CAN CULTIVATE A GROWING RELATIONSHIP on any level WITHOUT COMMITTING SPECIFIC TIME! Yes, we are to delight in God in our work, in our families, and in all areas of life! Nevertheless, one day in seven is a unique provision for rest, good deeds, and to delight in God Himself! (Matt. 6:33; John 14:15, 23; Isa. 58:13-14)

The SEVEN Feasts unto the LORD ALSO encourage us to DELIGHT in GOD!

I. LEVITICUS 23:4-5— PASSOVER: For the Old Testament Israelites, Passover was a remembrance of the night when the death angel passed over their homes sparing their first born. **For New Testament Christians, the Passover equates to the beginning of salvation.** The Passover lamb beautifully pictured Christ – John 1:29... *“Behold the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world!”* I Cor. 5:7— *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!”*

God’s message in the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same: Not when I see your good works or your golden rule living;

NOT WHEN I SEE YOUR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE— but *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you!”* **NEVER FORGET THIS:** The Israelite deserved death as much as the Egyptian; AND WE deserve death and Hell as much as anyone! Do you see that? Only when you do, will you flee to Christ for His blood to pay your sin debt! When Israel took the blood of the lamb and

applied it in faith— God then sent the plague of death on Egypt, God PASSED OVER ISRAEL, and Pharaoh released Israel. **IN A FAR GREATER WAY**, when we receive Christ's blood, God acts! His holy wrath is satisfied! Sin's penalty is paid! — God the Father satisfied His own holy wrath by the blood of His Son! SIN'S penalty is not only paid; but sin's power is broken!

CRITICAL QUESTION: Have you ever come to Jesus with all of your sin; and cried out in similar fashion as the tax-collector: "*O God, be merciful to me a sinner?*"

II. LEVITICUS 23:6-8: UNLEAVENED BREAD— In Scripture, leaven usually refers to sin. This feast pictured that those who were delivered from death, (by the shedding of and the applying of INNOCENT blood), have their sin forgiven; **and sin's rule put away!**

God has a claim on the regenerated life! [I Cor. 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; II Tim. 2:19; I Thess. 5:22— abstain from appearance]

ALSO: When Israel went out of Egypt by the power of God, Pharaoh and his armies pursued. However, God stepped in to overcome the impossible! When a person becomes a Christian, Satan and his armies pursue. They call you back. They will try to force you back to Egypt, back into the world of sin, self, and society! **Christian friend**, in our own strength we cannot conquer sin or self or Satan! IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, we cannot keep God's holy commandments— **But Christ in us can!** And so it is by Him, our High Priest, that we conquer (Ex. 13:14 & 14:14).

Therefore: (1) In obedient faith, let us put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7). **(2)** In obedient faith, let us live a life of feeding on Christ who has no leaven. **(3)** In trusting faith, let us live a life of total dependence. **The LORD'S TABLE**

reminds us of these things! DON'T MISS COMING to the LORD'S TABLE!

III. LEVITICUS 23:9-14: FIRST FRUITS— The Israelites could not harvest their early grain crop until the first bundle of grain was cut and brought to the priest. The priest would wave it before the Lord to be accepted of God. **For New Testament saints:** The resurrected Jesus Christ is the first fruits of them that slept (I Cor. 15:20-23). He arose from the dead. He was accepted by God. And because He, the first fruits, was accepted — so we the rest of the harvest are accepted in Him! [James 1:18 — of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.]

Moreover, Romans 8:23 tells us that we have the first fruits of the Holy Spirit! By the Holy Spirit we have (NOW!) the resurrection life of Christ and the blessed hope of future resurrection!

The Feast of First Fruits was always held the third day from Passover: Christ was crucified on the day of Passover. He arose from the dead three days later on the Day of First Fruits. ***When we experience a saving encounter with Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual participation in these first three feasts:***

1. Passover— we are redeemed BY THE BLOOD SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST— our Substitute, Sin Bearer, Saviour, and LORD! Christ became our Passover Lamb. THROUGH HIM, WE were and ARE delivered from wrath/slavery/guilt. But that is not all: WE ALSO EXPERIENCE,

2. “Unleavened bread”— we are separated from sin. We put away sin and feed on Christ. HOW COULD IT BE OTHERWISE?

3. First fruits— we are consecrated. We are accepted in the Beloved because of His resurrection and we are set apart for

Him. We are not **only saved from** the world, the flesh, and the devil, **but we are consecrated— saved to** a new life in Christ! **But that's not all...**

IV. LEVITICUS 23:15-16: PENTECOST— this feast is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. It was seven weeks or 50 days after the presentation of the bundle of First Fruits. This was originally a sort of harvest festival of thanksgiving after the people had gathered the harvest. The ancient rabbis, right or wrong, later concluded that

God gave the law to Moses on this day. So this festival came to be regarded as the season of the giving of the law. **But more significant and certain is this:** **1.** Jesus died on Passover. **2.** Jesus was raised on First Fruits. **3.** And the Holy Spirit came exactly on the day of Pentecost! (Are you beginning to see the relevance of God's sacred calendar of redemption!?)

And the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost for express purposes: To indwell, fill, and baptize believers. John 14:16-17— He shall be in you. Acts 1:5; 2:4 **Why?**

- 1.** To empower believers for the evangelizing of the world (Acts 1:8).
- 2.** To form the body of Christ (Jew and Gentile— I Cor. 12:13).
- 3.** To enable and empower every Christian to keep God's holy law (Ez. 36:26-27).
- 4.** To teach us all that Jesus said. To glorify Jesus. To unveil the future (John 14-16).
- 5.** To manifest in/through every redeemed sinner a miraculous orchard of fruit (Gal. 5:21-23).
- 6.** To release through every Christian a glorious array of ministering gifts to build up the body of Christ. **Oh, glorious full salvation!**

NOTICE: All of these events happen at the beginning of the Christian life: 1. Passover— Deliverance from judgment and Satan. **2. Unleavened Bread—** Separation from sin. **3. First Fruits—** Consecration to Christ. **4. Pentecost—** indwelling power for a holy/bold/witnessing life. We are living in the Pentecostal age!

EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS, FROM A BIBLICAL SENSE, A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTIAN! None of this is a second work of grace.

THE SEVEN FEASTS, (IN NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT), REMIND US OF the solid Rock foundation the Christian has: 1. Christ died for us. **2. Christ,** our unleavened bread. **3. Christ** raised. **4. Christ** indwelling and empowering. Our past is forgiven AND our present is empowered. **But even that's not all!** For in the fall of the Jewish year came the Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles.

V. LEVITICUS 23:24: THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS— in this present hour, the Christian lives with soberness and with hope. **Soberness:** Sound the trumpet! The judgment and wrath of God is coming. **Soberness:** Rev. 18:2-5. **Hope:** JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK! (Rev. 19-22) Living in the conscious awareness of Christ's second coming, for the Christian, is a **PURIFYING HOPE:** (1 John 3:14)

VI. LEVETICUS 23:27: THE DAY OF ATONEMENT— In the O. T. it was a sacred day of cleansing from sin. **Today, in Christ,** because of Calvary, we are already cleansed from both the penalty of sin and the ruling power of sin. **But one day, when Christ comes,** we shall be delivered from even the presence of sin and possibility of sin (Rev. 7:15-17; Rev. 21-22; I John 3:1-3).

No wonder PAUL CRIES OUT— God forbid that I should glory, except in the Cross! (Gal. 6:14)!

VII. LEVITICUS 23:34: THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES— Here is consummation, completion, rest, and fellowship with God. Here is, ruling/rejoicing with Christ forever; sitting at His feet; and beholding His face (Rev. 22:1-5). **Therefore:** Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 3:13-14.

Yes, in NEW TESTAMENT fulfillment, the Seven Feasts of the

LORD call us to a mighty revival of delighting in God;

and CALL US to delight in SO GREAT SALVATION!

REALITY: When we REJECT GLORYING IN the New Testament portraying of the Seven Feasts of the LORD; and substitute in its place man's holiday system of Christmas and Easter, (which are NO where found in the Bible) — we get a massive, expensive, exhausting feeding of the lust of the flesh... and not much DELIGHTING IN GOD!

The LORD GOD will be pleased to use the glorious FULL SALVATION CELEBRATIONS, at the LORD'S TABLE, to help keep us from SHIPWRECK. They give us a yearly ROADMAP **so that saints in Christ are reminded of WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST and THAT WE ARE ON A JOURNEY HOME!** YES— *“Blessed/happy/fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized by the feasts; they walk, O Lord, in the light and favor of your countenance.”*

WHEN WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE, we are celebrating the New Testament fulfillment of ALL SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD!

At the LORD'S TABLE, we are called to embrace the FULL SALVATION of the Lord and respond in worship and praise to God! It is a call to live in light of God's Calendar of Redemption. It is a call to live in the full light of heaven's reality: The world's Head-lines ultimately do not matter— because Jesus came! Jesus is here! Jesus is coming back! And until HE COMES BACK WE MUST BE FOCUSED ON HIS BUSINESS! And as we do, we will be INVINCIBLE UNTIL HE CALLS US HOME!

Let us go forward DELIGHTING in Him, RESTING in Him, and LABORING until the Master comes! Let us get back to the sure Word of prophecy, God's Holy Word; and let us sit at His feet and worship Him in spirit and in truth. (2 Peter 1:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-14; Matthew 4:4; John 4:23-24) Let us walk in the steps of the man Christ Jesus who lived by every Word that proceeded from His Father! (Matthew 4:4)

THE LORD'S SUPPER includes ALL the redemptive the truth of all Seven Feasts— for at THE LORD'S TABLE we PROCLAIM the LORD'S death UNTIL He comes! (1 Cor. 11:26)

Full Salvation includes all redemptive activity from THE DEATH of the Lamb of God until His RETURN— and that is what we remember and celebrate at the LORD'S TABLE!

For a great REVIVAL in our souls—

Let us 'make much' of the LAMB OF GOD!

Abundant Grace to you all!

James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

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 12:33ff ... Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 @ 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!**

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR * 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!

WE BEGIN WITH A FOCUS ON EQUIPPING FAMILIES with Biblical teaching in all areas of Family Life— SAINTS of all ages have a VITAL ROLE to fill! This monthly meeting is for the ENTIRE church family. Nursery provided.

***** WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**
http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/