



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 9, February 27, 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."***

EASTER IS COMING— WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

FOR 2018, Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday have passed! Lent is taking place! Easter is coming! "Fat Tuesday" comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon a fattened calf on **the last day before Lent**. The day is also known as Shrove Tuesday (from "to shrive," or hear confessions), and Pancake Tuesday — the custom of making pancakes comes from the need to use up fat, eggs, and dairy before the fasting and abstinence of Lent begins.

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the **first day of the season of Lent**, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). **This is all a time to prepare** for Easter by observing a period of fasting, moderation, and spiritual discipline. **During Ash Wednesday services**, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The practice, which dates from the early Middle-Ages, is common among Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Episcopalians, and many

Lutherans; it has also been adopted by some Methodists, Presbyterians, and others.

EASTER— the name “Easter” has its roots in ancient polytheistic religions. (The word “Easter” is found in one verse in the KJV, Acts 4:12, where the translators with zero justification, clearly rejected the correct word— PASSOVER.) **EASTER** is **NEVER** used in the original Scriptures. **IT** has **NO** connection with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

STRANGE HISTORY BEHIND EASTER TRADITIONS!

Long before the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, history records that the festival of “Easter” or “Ishtar,” **was a day that commemorated the supposed resurrection of ‘Tammuz’— one of the gods of the ancient world.** Tammuz was believed to be the only son of the moon-goddess and the sun-god.

The traditions of men say that Cush, Nimrod’s father, married a woman named Semiramis. After the death of his father, Nimrod married his own mother and became a powerful King. **Nimrod became a god to the people; and Semiramis, (his wife and mother), became a powerful Queen in ancient Babylon.** Nimrod was eventually killed by an enemy and his body was supposedly cut in pieces and sent to various parts of his kingdom. Semiramis told the people of Babylon that Nimrod had ascended to the sun and was now to be called **‘Baal’... the sun god.**

Queen Semiramis also proclaimed that Baal would be present on earth in the form of a flame, whether candle or lamp, when used in worship. Semiramis claimed that she was immaculately conceived and basically set up herself as a goddess. She taught that the moon was a goddess. She further claimed that she came down

from the moon in a giant moon egg that fell into the Euphrates River. **This was to have happened at the time of** the first full moon after the spring equinox. Semiramis became known as "Ishtar" which is pronounced "Easter," and her moon egg became known as "Ishtar's" egg."

Ishtar soon became pregnant and claimed that it was the rays of the sun-god Baal that caused her to conceive. **The son that she brought forth was named Tammuz.** Tammuz was believed to be the son of the sun-god, Baal. One day Tammuz was killed by a wild pig. Queen Ishtar told the people that Tammuz was now ascended to his father, Baal, and that the two of them would be with the worshipers in the sacred candle or lamp flame. As time went on, Ishtar, who was now worshiped as the "Mother of God and Queen of Heaven," continued to build her mystery religion.

The queen told the worshipers that when Tammuz was killed by the wild pig, some of his blood fell on the stump of an evergreen tree, and the stump grew into a full new tree overnight. This made the evergreen tree sacred by the blood of Tammuz. (Green trees became common in Baal worship).

Semiramis also proclaimed a forty day period of time of sorrow each year prior to the anniversary of the death of Tammuz. During this time, no meat was to be eaten. Worshipers were to meditate upon the sacred mysteries of Baal and Tammuz as they worshiped. Every year, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, a celebration was made. It was celebrated with rabbits and eggs, etc.

MANY of ***these ancient religious beliefs and practices*** were '*Christianized*' into Christendom by **Constantine** and apostate Romanism. (**Note:** This information is easily discovered in Encyclopedias; and in various **pro-holiday** books, etc.)

STUNNING REALITY: Secular and Biblical history reveal that *Easter has nothing whatsoever to do with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ— nevertheless, Easter has a POWERFUL grip on even genuine Christians! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?*

HERE'S HOW: More than we like to admit, we humans have a long history of reserving for ourselves the right to determine what is and is not acceptable in worship. **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, God must be pleased— even though it is contrary to or foreign to what He has revealed and/or commanded. **THUS:**

- 1. We are easy prey for deceptions,** even as was Eve.
- 2. We easily fall in love with our ideas,** even as Cain and even as Israel with their golden calf.
- 3. 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 rather than to obey God! (Exodus 32:1-6)

BIBLICAL TRUTH: AGAIN, there is NO Biblical connection between EASTER and the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ. The Bible says nothing about celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus by means of sunrise services, Lent, eggs, egg hunts, baskets of candy, etc. **The beginnings and histories of all of these practices** are found in ancient Babylon and Rome— not in the Word of God! **HOWEVER, many argue that participating in various Easter traditions is harmless because we don't connect them to their Babylonian Mystery Religion roots. The point of this article is that there is NO BIBLICAL WARRANT** to connect any of the Easter traditions with anything relating to our Lord Jesus Christ.

EVEN SO, multitudes say: We have a great host of the world's most respected preachers, (with Bibles in hand), preaching EASTER— preaching about the, 'EASTER EVENT!' That makes it OK!

Moreover, we believe that we accomplish much good by our tradition. **THEREFORE, we set forth** our statistics of how many we say we got saved at an Easter egg hunt, etc. — that settles it. It is indeed our decision to do things our way. PLUS, I refuse to be a KILL-JOY and rob my kids and grand-kids from all the fun of our Easter; and risk having them hate me— they might even grow up to hate Jesus! **Besides, we prayed** and the Lord led us!

BUT, HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT,

- 1. IF Bible truth is expendable in one area—** what about in other areas?
- 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 our traditions** get to decide what is and is not acceptable doctrine and practice— is anything not left subject to us?
- 4. IF we and our traditions are embraced OVER** obedience to the clear Word of God— **isn't that making our will sovereign over God's will?**

[By the way, this is indeed the position of Roman Catholicism— namely that the Bible plus their Church tradition decide what is or is not truth and practice— with their Church and their traditions being in authority over the Word of God!]

REMINDER— *This article is about our 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? **The battle is ancient— REMEMBER,** with Adam and Eve, satan's first strategy was to call into question the goodness and absolute authority of God's pure Word!

MOREOVER, when Jesus was on earth, He confronted this issue:

MARK 7:6-9— “He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**”

For **laying aside the commandment of God,** ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**”

LET US one and all... hear, receive, and HEED the pure Word 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 12:41ff ... Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 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!**

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH:

***** March 4— [1st Sunday] → THIS COMING LORD'S DAY:**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

NOON→ MONTHLY 'COVERED DISH' MEAL!

***** March 11— [2nd Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

5:30pm- 7:30pm— Faithful Men's meeting / Come in 'iron steps' door!

***** March 18— [3rd Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School /

10:45am— Worship Service & **LORD'S SUPPER**

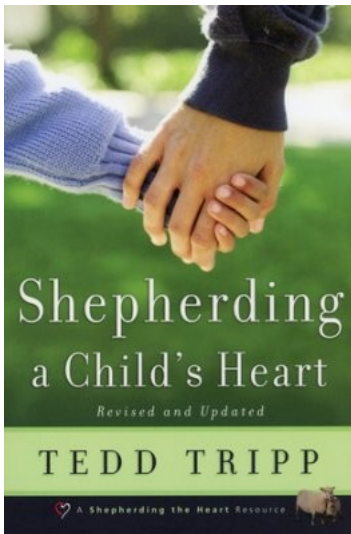
HOME GROUPS at 5:00pm... or check with your group

***** March 25— [4th Sunday]**

9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service

6:00pm- 7:00pm— Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night!



Meet in Auditorium, come in **FRONT DOORS!**
(Doors will open at 5:30pm)

1. FAMILY INTEGRATED, that is, it is for the **WHOLE** family— Grandparents, Parents, Teens, Children. (Infant & Toddler Nursery available)

2. All grandparents and parents have **FAMILIES** in your world who need help, counseling, advice, mentoring— **THESE 4TH** Sunday Evenings will help you with your own children and grandchildren... as well as

EMPOWERING you for ministry to your neighbors!

3. Present Study: Tedd Tripp's *SHEPHERDING a Child's Heart*, 12 session series.

4. Arrive and be IN YOUR SEATS by 5:55pm... Session will start at 6:00pm sharp. Sessions will last approximately one hour.

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

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

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

***** APRIL 1— [1st Sunday, RESURRECTION SUNDAY]**

9:30am— Sunday School... regular classes

10:45am— Worship Service **and the LORD'S SUPPER!** /

NOON ... MONTHLY 'COVERED DISH' MEAL!

Let us, one and all, HONOR the Lord Jesus Christ **by placing preeminent priority on** setting aside this day to worship JESUS with the saints to whom the Holy Spirit has joined us!