



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 45, No. 14, April 3, 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."***

**‘B.R.S.’— Broken Rope Syndrome!** [Part 1 of  
3] (Edited from ***WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS***, by Stephen  
Brown)

**Bad News! Troubles! Trials! Tribulations! INJUSTICE! — depending upon our response to these ‘BROKEN ROPES’ we will either become bitter or better!** When we are ‘clay’ in the Master’s hands, we will be able to testify with the Psalmist: *“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy Statutes.”* (Psalm 119:67, 71)

## **I. THE REALITY OF THE BAD NEWS. Job 3:23-26**

**All is not right with the world.** Long before we were born something bad happened called ***the FALL***; and today we are still dealing with the repercussions. If you are in the middle of ‘Broken Ropes’ or ‘Broken Rope Syndrome’ (BRS), you can’t afford to close your eyes and pretend that everything is fine. **FACE IT— there are inevitable storms in a fallen world.**

**Because of the Fall...** the whole creation groans in the aftermath of sin’s continuing consequences. (Gen. 3:17b-19; Romans 8:20-22) Living in a fallen world, you are going to have to live with the implications of a fallen world. That means that you have to face the fact of natural disasters! **And instead of being angry at God— BE ANGRY AT SIN!**

**Sin is a part of a fallen world.** (Jer. 17:9)

You must face the fact that, because of your sin nature, you aren't perfect. **Your own sin** will cause you all kinds of trouble. **The sin of others** will also bring about 'Broken Ropes'. Moreover, there are times when bad stuff happens (**Luke 13:1-5**) and the command of Jesus, shockingly, is— "REPENT or PERISH!"

**The Sting of death.** (Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:56) Have you ever had someone tell you not to worry about death, because it was as natural as birth and just a part of life? **They lied to you!** Death is not natural. We were not born to die. Disease, all manner of suffering and death are the result of sin, fall-out from the Fall!

## II. IT'S NOT YOUR PARTY!

The good news is you have been invited to a party. The bad news is that it isn't your party! But once you understand the One for whom the party is given, all things considered, it isn't such a bad party after all!

**Understanding the way the world works.** (Job 38-41) **God is working His plan, not ours.** Our fallen nature is egocentric. That's another way of saying that most of us, in our heart of hearts, believe that the world revolves around us. The Bible teaches that the world was not created for us; it was created by and for God. (Isa. 40:25; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1; Rev. 4:11)

God has created the world for His reasons and not for ours. Believe it or not, that is **very good news!**

**Gaining perspective on the rope**— Breaking ropes, as horrible as they can be, may be seen from another perspective. When 'our

rope breaks' and some difficulty or tragedy follows— We naturally feel that something is out of control. But that may not be the case. Breaking ropes are not necessarily the major concern of God. He may have other priorities. **Thus, I need a right foundational attitude about Broken Ropes! HERE ARE THREE attitude responses— only the 3<sup>rd</sup> one is good!**

**\*\*\* 'This isn't really happening.'**—

You can choose to believe that the world is a playground created by God for your enjoyment and pleasure. With this belief, you will see your broken rope as an unwelcome interruption, or pretend that the broken rope really isn't broken.

**\*\*\* 'All is vanity.'**—

When your rope has broken, you can choose to believe that the world is essentially meaningless. "Life is hard and then you die."

**\*\*\* 'God is everything!'**—

**This response gives foundational meaning to breaking ropes.** God, as revealed in the Bible, is the Creator who, for His own reasons, created the world and is doing all of His good pleasure and purpose. That is the Biblical option, and while that may not seem like altogether great news, it, at least, brings genuine meaning into the equation. The Bible teaches that God created the world that He might be glorified.

Yes, because of man's sin, we live in a fallen world! But, still, everything was created that God might be glorified. If you understand these two facts, breaking ropes will still hurt, but you will find the meaning in them— **For Life is about the King of Kings and the LORD OF LORDS!**

It is not about His servants, or His lands, or His subjects.

**It is only about the KING!**

**AND BY THE WAY:** In the midst of breaking ropes, Almighty God reigns!

*And, amazingly, He is merciful and loves sinners!*

### **III. THE VERY, VERY GOOD NEWS**

**\*\*\* GOD LOVES SINNERS! And God has special love for His redeemed children.** (Rom. 9:14-16; I John 3:1; I John 4:10) **What does His love mean?** Agape means to love the unlovely, to be benevolent and filled with good will, no matter what the response of the loved one. “But God proved His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8)

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: Your broken rope has purpose—**

Because God loves you, your broken rope has purpose. Sometimes we are missing the one thing we would like to know— What does God want to accomplish through our suffering? True, sometimes we’re allowed to see some reason for our pain and/or suffering. **But there are other times when** we simply have to trust that God loves us and that He knows what He’s doing. (John 13:7)

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: You will make it through.**

Because God loves you, your broken rope will not ultimately destroy you. **You can stand any tough times if you know they are only temporary. If you know that the suffering will end, you can get through it.** God promises that, though it may hurt now, one day ‘tears’ will be ‘former’ things and you will not ultimately be destroyed. His love, proven at Calvary, assures that “bottom-line” fact!

You may have green pastures, still waters, enemies, death or more — **But the Good Shepherd will never leave you and He will get you home! (Psalm 23)**

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: You are not alone.** (John 14:16-18)

People are always saying, “Jesus is all I need.” You will never know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you’ve got! And when Jesus is all you’ve got, then and only then, will you know that Jesus is all you need!

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: You are becoming like Christ.**

(2 Cor. 4:8-11; I Peter 4:12-13a; John 15:18-20) When your rope breaks it is never pleasant, but at that point you can begin to understand in a deeper way the sacrifice and suffering of Christ. Don’t underestimate that gift. (Phil. 3:8, 10)

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: Your broken rope is redemptive.**

(Col. 1:24; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:23-28) When your rope breaks, you can use it in a redemptive way. And then there is the witness you can give when your rope breaks. God does not waste suffering, He does not discipline without good cause. If He plows, it is because He purposes a crop. Suffering can also be redemptive to the one who suffers. Suffering purifies us. “Don’t waste your sorrows!”

**MOREOVER:** Too much of our Christian life is ego-oriented! There is a lot of ego that needs God’s refining fire. (I Cor. 3:11-15)

**\*\*\* CHRISTIAN: You have a fellow sufferer, JESUS CHRIST!**  
(Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:21)

**IV. HOW TO TIE A KNOT— what to do when your rope breaks!**

**The means of grace:** The means of grace is the formal theological term for the ways God enables us to persevere in our salvation.

**Here are some:**

### **1. Honest prayer: Telling God the truth.**

Honest prayer can really help when your rope has broken. (Ps. 69:1-3) If you are angry and hurt, don't tell God that you love Him. He knows you are lying. Don't tell Him that you know He is doing whatever He is doing in your life for a good reason. He knows you don't believe that for a moment.

Tell Him the truth. ALMIGHTY GOD is the only Being in the world Who can absorb everything you hand out, understand why you do it, and still love you! **And after you tell Him the truth—**

PRAISE HIM ANYWAY! He is worthy! This open secret is revealed again and again in the Psalms. (Example: Psalm 13)

### **2. Honest fellowship: Being real with each other.** (Gal. 6:2)

A Christian facing surgery: "Are you kidding? Of course I'm frightened," she exclaimed. "I'm scared to death. People die in this place!" A Brother: "Guys, I want you to know that my business is falling apart and I'm scared." Another confessed, "I am losing battles in my thoughts... looked at porn last week..." We can only bear one another's burdens from a position of genuine reality!

### **3. Honest Bible study: Reading beyond the "Spiritual" ...**

In a world where it is common practice to lie— It's wonderful to go someplace where I know I'll hear the truth. That place is Scripture. The Bible presents great men and women of God doing very ungodly things. **The more I read the Bible, the more I**

**realized** that God wanted us to see real people trying to deal with broken ropes. The Bible not only portrays the lives of people who, like us, dealt with broken ropes but also it shows us the best way to deal with broken ropes.

#### **4. Honest action: Doing what needs doing.**

The Bible is not a passive book. Scripture challenges us **to run** the race, **to fight** the fight, **to wrestle** against powers of evil (I Cor. 9:24, 27; Eph. 6:12). **Example:** When you place your hand on a hot stove, your hand doesn't hurt because you haven't prayed enough or been spiritual enough. Your hand hurts because it's on a hot stove. **Don't pray! Take your hand off the stove!**

Amazingly, the remedy for a broken rope is often telling one's self Biblical truth and taking aggressive faith/obedience action. ***Real Faith is acting upon the Word of God!***

#### **5. Honest Surrender— accepting what God gives you.**

The book of Job gives a good illustration of positive surrender. (Job 1:20-21; Job 2:9-10) Whenever situations come into your life that you cannot change or avoid, (and which are not consequences from personal choices) — accept them as coming from the hand of your loving Father. In other words, surrender to God. In spiritual warfare, fight the right battles! (Romans 12:14-21)

#### **6. Honest victory: Celebrating when you get things right.**

One of the problems with honesty about your failure and sin is that it can become addictive. Because we are talking about broken ropes, we need to talk about the realities of failure, sin, tragedy, and surrender.

**However, that's NOT the whole story— FOR God still**

**answers prayer; He still mends broken ropes.** (Luke 22:31-32)

**Moreover**, regardless of circumstances and regardless of people (she, him and/or them), **none of whom you can control or change**— God is still on the throne and worthy of worship and worthy of praise!

Indeed, a master secret is this— **Almighty God Inhabits the Praises of His People! Miracles Happen when we PRAISE THE LORD!** (2 Chron. 20: 1-22; Acts 16:25-33)

**Grace to all in Christ!** / 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? 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— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE 13:10-17. 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!**

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**WATCH and 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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**SUNDAY SERVICES: APRIL 2018— 8, 15, 22, 29**

**ALL SUNDAYS:**

***1. Sunday School at 9:30am***

***and***

***2. Worship at 10:45am***

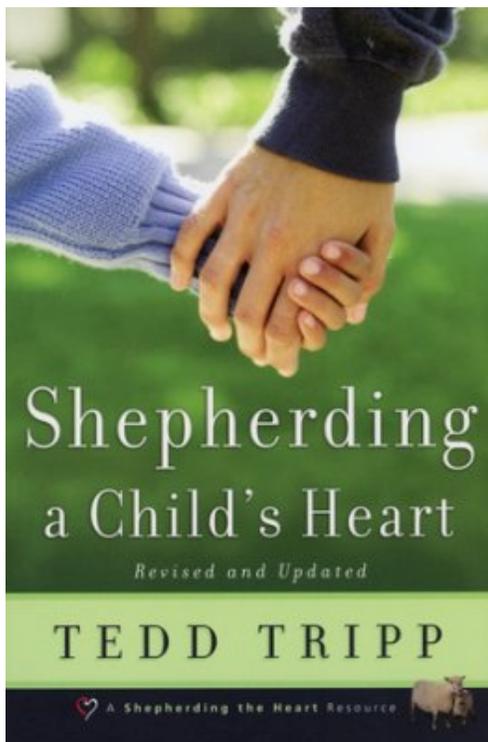
**Special notes for SUNDAYS — April 8, 15, 22, 29**

**1. April 8 at 5:30 pm... FAITHFUL MEN.**

**2. April 15: LORD'S SUPPER** at conclusion of the 10:45am worship service.

**HOME GROUPS at 5:00pm**

### 3. April 22, 6:00pm- 7:00pm— Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night...



Meet in Auditorium, come in FRONT DOORS! (Doors will open at 5:30pm, 4/22/18)

**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 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday Evenings will help you with your own children and grandchildren... as well as EMPOWERING you for ministry to your

neighbors!

**3. 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

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**4. April 29: 6:00pm... Fifth Sunday Evening Praise & WORSHIP!**

*THIS WILL BE A GLORIOUS SCRIPTURE and HYMN FEST with one and all LIFTING THEIR VOICES to God in worship! **[IN ADVANCE... give Bradley or Adam** the Scripture you would like to read or have read; and the hymns you would like for the congregation to sing unto the LORD!]*