

**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 21, May 22, 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."***

SORROWS and JOYS— what shall we do with them?

Sometimes sorrows, cares, and the mysteries of life all pile together and we feel like we have been run over by a truck! If that's never happened to you, I'm happy for you! But cheer up! Your turn may be next— for in this present world we will have troubles, trials, and tribulations! Having such difficulties and sorrows— does that mean we will be limited to little or no joy?

The 'story' of the Two Boxes! **"I have in my hands two boxes which I was given.** The Giver of the boxes said to me, "Put all your sorrows in the black box and all your joys in the gold."

I heeded his words and in the two boxes both my sorrows and my joys I stored. However, I began to think **the gold box heavier each day**, while the black was becoming lighter by the day. With curiosity, one day I opened the black box— I just had to know why it was now so light. To my surprise I saw, **in the base of the black box, a hole!** All of my past sorrows had fallen out! Recent sorrows were mostly gone; and even new sorrows could not stay!

I came to the Giver of the boxes, revealed the hole and I asked, "I wonder where my sorrows have gone?" With a kind smile he said, "My child, they are all here with me!" **So, I asked, "Why did you give me two boxes?"**

Why the gold box that fuller gets and the black box with the hole... that continues to empty out, again and again?" The Giver of the boxes said, "My child, **the gold box is for** you to count and store your blessings and remember them over and again! **And the black box is for you to LET GO!**"

Well, that's just a story! But it can help us to see something of the power of MEMORY and the need to be able to 'LET GO' the sorrows of the past! Let us dig deeper by first of all giving consideration to the following true account:

Many years ago, J. Hudson Taylor was a missionary to China and the work developed to where he was called upon to pray in financial support for and to oversee over 1,000 missionaries. What an awesome weight of responsibility! A grand secret of his life is revealed in a word the Holy Spirit quickened to him: "**Bear not a single care thyself— one is too much for thee! The Work is MINE and MINE alone! Thy work? TO REST IN ME!**" Henceforth, Hudson Taylor embraced the secret of 'LETTING GO' by casting all care upon His Heavenly Father!

I believe memory serves me correctly that Taylor, at least on one occasion while interviewing a fresh Missionary Recruit, suddenly SLAMMED HIS FIST down hard on a table and water went flying from a full glass! **He then spoke to this effect:** "Young man, in China the work is difficult, the accommodations are meager. There will be many troubles, trials, and tests that will come CRASHING DOWN UPON YOU!

And when they do, **what is in you is what will come out—** the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the carnal attitudes of an un-crucified flesh!"

So it is for all of us! Life comes tumbling in with the unwanted and the unexpected and we get CRUSHED... and what is in us comes out!

IN OTHER WORDS, Life is not primarily about what happens to us; life is primarily about our responses!

Therefore: “Bear not a single care thyself— one is too much for thee! The Work is MINE (God’s!) and MINE alone! Thy work? TO REST IN ME! (God!)”

The hymn writer, Jean S. Pigott, says it in this wonderful way:

Jesus, I am resting, resting, In the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness Of Thy loving heart. Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, And Thy beauty fills my soul, For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

O, how great Thy loving kindness, Vaster, broader than the sea! O, how marvelous Thy goodness, Lavished all on me! Yes, I rest in Thee, Belovèd, Know what wealth of grace is Thine, Know Thy certainty of promise, And have made it mine.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art, And Thy love, so pure, so changeless, Satisfies my heart; Satisfies its deepest longings, Meets, supplies its every need, Compasseth me round with blessings: Thine is love indeed!

Ever lift Thy face upon me As I work and wait for Thee; Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, Earth’s dark shadows flee. Brightness of my Father’s glory, Sunshine of my Father’s face, Keep me ever trusting, resting, Fill me with Thy grace.

Refrain after each verse: *Jesus, I am resting, resting, In the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness Of Thy loving heart.*

SORROWS AND JOYS— HOW CAN I ‘LET GO’ of all I have stored in my ‘black box’ of sorrows?

I should start by distinguishing between **[1]** the sorrows which are a *consequence of my own* wrong attitudes, words, actions, and/or wrong responses to others; **[2]** and the sorrows which are the result of what God has brought and/or allowed from others. **[3] I must own up to and turn from** every thought, attitude, and/or action in my life that is tainted with ‘Galatians 5:19-21’ responses. **[4] I must live in the personal experience of ‘1 John 1:9’...** confessing and dealing with my sin and not the sins of others; and **[5]** embrace and be a channel for ‘Galatians 5:22-24’ responses!

It is not what people do or say against me that will steal my joy and peace; but it is my own ‘anti-Christ Galatians 5:19-21’ responses. When my thoughts, words, and actions are Galatians 5:19-21 types, I get buffeted about for my own faults and there is no joy in that— **and my ‘Black Box’ of sorrows overflows!** (1 Peter 2:19-21) However, when I yield to the indwelling Holy Spirit and become a channel for Galatians 5:22-24 responses— **my ‘Black Box’ of sorrows empties out!**

*** Moreover, I begin to experience the joy of doing my Father’s will.

*** I begin to experience the pleasure and the joy of expecting God to use the SUPERNATURAL responses He empowered me with to bring about MIRACLES IN OTHERS, even in enemies and those who offended me! The ‘joy of the LORD is my strength; and so, I must look unto Jesus. By His indwelling Holy Spirit, He stands ready to accomplish in and through me HIS way of joy!

2. JESUS IS OUR MODEL: Jesus, who had a weight of sorrows above all others, ‘endured the cross, despising the shame, for the JOY

THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM! Although He was tempted, **Jesus ‘let go’** and did not harbor hurt, resentment, bitterness, etc. **Jesus ‘let go’** by praying to His Father, *“Forgive them for they know not what they do!”* **As a Christian, I am called and empowered to walk in His steps!** Jesus stayed focused on being the Father’s HEALING AGENT to the undeserving. Jesus “...committed Himself to the righteous judgment of His Father! (1 Peter 2:20-24) SO MUST I!

In sad reality, many of us find our ‘Black Box of Sorrows’ to be full and overflowing with hurts, resentments, and bitterness over bad things said and/or done to us. Why? Because we have refused to walk in the steps of Jesus!

God brings and/or allows troubles, trials, tribulations and/or testing — but none of these can destroy us or even rob us of joy and peace!

They are divinely designed to give us an opportunity to walk in the steps of Jesus, so as to experience His joy and peace in abundance!

The experience of the supernatural joy of Jesus is in direct proportion to our OBEDIENCE to Jesus (John 15:11) who calls us to walk in His steps, overcoming evil with good! (1 Peter 2:20-24; Romans 12:14-21) Remember: ***Life is not primarily about what happens to us; life is primarily about our responses!***

WHAT ABOUT MY ‘GOLD BOX’ OF BLESSINGS? *Jehoshaphat, (2 Chronicles 20) was a godly man. However, at the time of 2 Chronicles 20, multiple enemies were coming for war against Judah and Jehoshaphat with great force and military might. Notice what Jehoshaphat did: [1] He began to seek God and worship God, exclaiming His sovereignty and power, (v.3-6); and [2] he*

remembered God's past faithful dealings— "Did you not drive out the enemy before? (v.7) Did you not destroy the enemy completely?" (v.10)

REALITY: It is common for followers of Jesus to face circumstances that will DISTURB our world. When these circumstances happen, it's important to **remember the past faithful blessings, and victories that God has given us.** Why? *It strengthens our faith; it re-establishes God on the throne of our hearts; it enlightens our understanding; it gives new life in an atmosphere of defeat; it casts off doubt; and it inspires us to advance for the cause of Christ.* **When we remember past blessings,** we experience renewed, God-given faith! *"Count your many blessings! Name them one by one! It will surprise [And encourage] you what God has done!"*

The sad truth is that many folk have '**BLACK BOXES**' full of **hurts**, resentments, and bitterness which they GUARD and use as weapons, refusing the steps of Jesus. Many have '**GOLD BOXES**' **that are empty**, as they place no value on remembering the past faithful dealings of the LORD!

Are you living life in REVERSE? You hold on to wrongs done to you. You place little value or even BLOCK OUT God's past faithful dealings, OR past good times in your marriage! Possibly the greatest 'GOLD BOX' filler is found in a genuine EMBRACING OF REMEMBRANCE at the LORD'S TABLE! **How is it with you?** Jesus is calling you and I to joy and peace! LET US COME TO HIM! His yoke is easy and His burden is light! (Various helps, unknown sources, used in developing this article!)

Grace to all the saints in Christ! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE AT 6:30 PM: *Since 'only God can do the work of God'— the true secret of going forward as a congregation USEFUL and POWERFUL in God's true kingdom work is that we go forward in prayer! No one should have to ask, beg, or push to get me to be present!*

Grace to all in Christ! / 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 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, June 5 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** 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!

WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

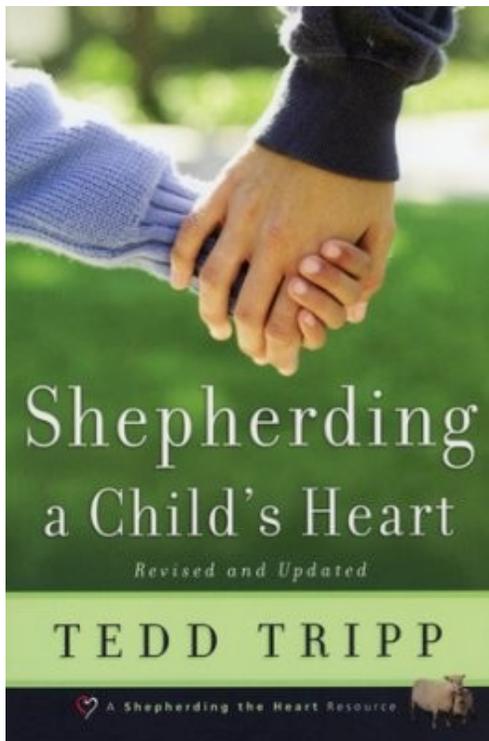
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SUNDAY SERVICES: MAY 27, 2018

Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship at 10:45am

SUNDAY SERVICES, special notes—

May 27... Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night!



Meet in Auditorium, come in FRONT DOORS! (Doors will open at 5:30pm, 5/27/18)

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 4TH 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