

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 23, June 5, 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."***

BREAKING SIN'S POWER by Counting the Cost! [The first portion is edited from *Deterring Immorality by Counting Its Cost: The exorbitant price of sexual sin!* by Randy Alcorn]... **HE WRITES:**

I met with a man who had been a leader in a Christian organization until he committed immorality. I asked him, "What could have been done to prevent this?" He paused only for a moment, and then said with haunting pain and precision, ***"If only I had really known, really thought through and weighed what it would cost me and my family and my Lord, I honestly believe I would never have done it."***

Some years ago a friend and I both developed **lists of all the specific consequences** we could think of that would result from our immorality as pastors. The lists were devastating... Periodically, especially when traveling or when in a time of temptation or weakness, we read through this list.

In a personal and tangible way it brings home God's law of choice and consequence. It cuts through the fog of

rationalization and fills our hearts with the healthy, motivating fear of God.

We find that when we begin to think unclearly, reviewing this list yanks us back to the reality of **the law of the harvest** and the need both to **fear God** and the **consequences** of sin. An edited version of our combined lists follows. I suggest that each one using these lists include the actual names of SPOUSE and children, so as to emphasize the personal nature of this exercise.

NOTE: I use the word SPOUSE, because men are not the only ones who need this! And... It is not just for pastors... but for all of God's people!

Where it involves my own lists of specific people's names, I've simply stated "list names" so the reader can insert the appropriate ones in his own life. Some of these consequences would be unique to me, just as some of yours would be unique to you. I recommend that you use this as the basis for your own list, and then include those other consequences that would be uniquely yours.

The idea, of course, is not to focus on sin, but on the consequences of sin, thereby encouraging us *to refocus on the Lord* and take steps of wisdom and purity that can keep us from falling. [ALSO: This process is valid and helpful for fighting any sort of sin!]

NOTE: While God can forgive and bring beauty out of ashes, that's a message to those who have already sinned— not to those who are contemplating sin! **On the "front side" of sin, as we are being TEMPTED, we must not give assurances of forgiveness and restoration.** We must put the focus where Scripture does— on the love of God and the fear of God, both of which should act in concert to motivate us to holy obedience.

Personalized List of Anticipated Consequences of Immorality:

- 1. Grieving my Lord;** displeasing the One whose opinion most matters.
- 2.** Dragging Christ's sacred reputation into the MUD.
- 3.** Loss of reward, broken fellowship with God, and judgment from God.
- 4.** Having to one day look Jesus in the face at the judgment and give an account of my sin.
- 5.** Forcing God to discipline me in various ways.
- 6.** Following in the footsteps of men I know of, whose immorality forfeited their ministry and caused me to shudder. (Note: List the names... not to share with anyone else...)
- 7.** Suffering of innocent people around me who would get hit by my shrapnel (as in the case of Achan in the Old Testament, Joshua 7)
- 8.** Untold hurt to _____, my best friend and loyal Spouse. Loss of _____'s respect and trust.
- 9.** Hurt to and loss of credibility with my beloved children... List:
- 10.** I could lose my family forever... List:
- 11.** Shame to my family... List:
- 12.** Shame to my church family. List:
- 13.** Shame and hurt to my friends, and especially those I've led to Christ and/or disciplined. List:
- 14.** If I repent, though God would forgive me, guilt and remorse would be hard to shake. (Proverbs 6:32-33)
- 15.** Plaguing memories and flashbacks that could taint future intimacy with my spouse.
- 16.** Forfeiting forever certain opportunities to serve God.
- 17.** Being haunted by my sin as I look in the eyes of others, and having it all dredged up again wherever I go and whatever I do.

18. Undermining the hard work and prayers of others by saying to our community, "**this is a hypocrite**— who can take seriously anything he and his church have said and done?"

19. Laughter, rejoicing by those who disrespect God and the church (2 Samuel 12:14).

20. Bringing great pleasure to satan, the Enemy of God.

21. Heaping judgment and endless problems on the person I would have committed adultery/fornication with.

22. Possible diseases: gonorrhea, syphilis, Chlamydia, herpes, and AIDS (pain, constant reminder to me and my spouse, possible infection of my spouse, or in the case of AIDS, even causing the death of my spouse, as well as mine.)

23. Possible pregnancy, with its personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of sin to me and my family.

24. Loss of self-respect, discrediting my own name, and invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself.

These are only some of the consequences. *If only we would rehearse in advance the ugly and overwhelming consequences of immorality, we would be far more prone to avoid it.* **May we live each day in the love and fear of God!** (End of Alcorn article)

TO WIN THE BATTLE over any and all sin, CHRISTIAN, remember— * YOU HAVE BEEN BOUGHT WITH A PRICE!**

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For you are bought with a price: [a great price was paid to RANSOM YOU!] therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's!" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) **TO ALL WHO**

ARE IN CHRIST— You Are bought With a Price: You and I are tempted on every hand and in many different ways to feed the

flesh, to bow to the world, the flesh, and/or the devil. **But GOD tells us:** We are not our own! **We are bought with a price!**

“Look you back to the day when you were bought, when you were bond-slaves to your sins, when you were under the just sentence of divine justice, when it was inevitable that God should punish your transgressions; **remember** how the Son of God became your substitute, how He bared His back to the lash that should have fallen upon you, and laid His soul beneath the sword which should have quenched its fury in your blood.” (C. H. Spurgeon)

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! You were redeemed “...with the precious blood of Christ...” (1 Peter 1:18) Spurgeon preached, “That the blood of Christ was shed to buy our souls from death and hell is a wonder of compassion which ... ought to overwhelm us with adoring love for Christ. Christ’s death was the substitute for the death of the ungodly. He was made a curse for us, and the presence of God was denied Him because of it.” **Behold the suffering Lamb of God!** Open the BIBLE and meditate deeply of Christ at Gethsemane and Golgotha.

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! Let any right thinking Christian sit down and write his or her biography and all would agree: **“WITHOUT QUESTION THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT *in all of my personal PAST* is that I have been bought by the blood of Jesus!”** Thus, let all saints confess: I am not my own. I belong to Jesus! My past is forgiven!

The blinding, binding, grinding power of sin and satan is broken. Sin’s weights are lifted! I am set free from the futility of performance based living, of trying to be good enough to merit heaven. I am resting in the total sufficiency of Jesus— in His precious blood, goodness, and merit.

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! The MOST SIGNIFICANT REALITY *in all of my experiences in THE PRESENT* is that I am IN CHRIST/CHRIST IS IN ME;

Thus, I am a Minister of Reconciliation, an Ambassador for Christ, and On Mission with God! (1 Cor. 3:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:19-20) I am forgiven (Past! Present! Future!); I am resting in Christ. I am now free to be & become all that Christ intends today! I no longer search or strive for significance. For in Christ I have supreme significance— **I am a Child of God!**

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! “The most significant thing about MY FUTURE is that I will continue to experience the ongoing cleansing power of the blood of Christ; and I will rule and reign with Christ for all eternity.” (Rev. 5:9-10; 7:9-12; 12:11) Moreover, I am free from any obligation to fear death or the future. Nothing nor no one can separate me from the love of God in Christ. Whether I live or whether I die, I am the LORD’S! As I walk with Him, being on Mission with him, I am invincible until He calls me home!

BOUGHT WITH CHRIST’S PRECIOUS BLOOD! *CHRISTIAN! YOU ARE HIS TEMPLE!* “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16) “... You are the temple of the living God...” (2 Cor. 6:16) When we come to the New Testament we find that the prophecies of the prophets were fulfilled. Thus, we read, “And the WORD was made flesh, and **dwelt among us...**” (John 1:14) God came down and “tabernacled among us “in the person of His Son, Jesus! **BUT WHERE IS JESUS NOW?**

[1] He is seated at the Father’s right hand! (Mark 16:19) [2] And Every Christian experiences “... the riches of the glory ... which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory...” (Col. 1: 27) Or as Galatians 2:20 tells us, “... CHRIST LIVETH IN ME ...!” **YOU, CHILD OF**

GOD, YOU ARE HIS HOLY TEMPLE ON EARTH! You, dear local assembly of saints are His Holy Temple! If you refuse the implication of His claim upon you, then what business have you to hide in the shelter of John 3:16? **You cannot have the grace of God without the government of God!**

The price of His blood demands a practical surrender of all your body ... you acknowledge, 'I am no longer my own; I am bought with a price!'" (Alan Redpath)

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! Your Body is the Dwelling Place of the Holy Spirit. Your Body is His Temple. You Are Not Your Own! Therefore, Glorify God in Your Body and in Your Spirit, Which Belong Exclusively To GOD! **"His [indwelling] presence is ... like** the sun, which cannot shine **without** brightening the earth and sky and sea; **without** giving color to the rose, its fragrance to the lily, its flavor to the peach; **without** ripening the golden grain and cheering and brightening the hearts of men. **GOD CANNOT DWELL IN THE SOUL WITHOUT CORRESPONDING INFLUENCES; without** fostering love and purity; **without** making sin more odious and holiness more attractive; **without** giving it [the soul] strength to banish the one [sin] and [strength] to follow the other [holiness]." (W.G. Blaikie)

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! The context of I Corinthians 6:19-20, is very significant! GOD IS WARNING SAINTS AGAINST VARIOUS FORMS OF SEXUAL SIN! (Be sure to read these verses before finishing this article! (1 Cor. 6:15-20)

***** John MacArthur writes,** "Christ's people are one spirit with Him. We have been looking at some of the wondrous implications of that statement. But for his purpose here, Paul uses it to show that a Christian who commits sexual immorality involves his Lord! **All sex outside of marriage is sin, BUT WHEN IT IS**

COMMITTED BY BELIEVERS it is especially reprehensible, because it profanes Jesus Christ, with whom the believer is one, (John 14:18-23; 15:4, 7; 17:20-23) ...it places Christ in an unthinkable position ... Christ is not personally tainted with the sin ... But His reputation is dirtied ...”

Furthermore, “... although sexual sin is not necessarily the worst sin, it is the most unique in its character. **It rises** from within the body, bent on personal gratification. **It drives** like no other impulse and when fulfilled, affects the body like no other sin. **It has a way** of internally destroying a person that no other sin has. **Because sexual intimacy is the deepest uniting of two persons, its misuse corrupts on the deepest human level.** That is not a psychological analysis but a divinely revealed fact.” (Prov. 5:3-5; 8-12; Prov. 6: 23-29; 32-33; Prov. 7: 21-27; 1 Cor. 6:15-20)

“Sexual immorality is far more destructive than alcohol, far more destructive than drugs, far more destructive than crime.” MacArthur concludes, “To commit sexual sin in a church auditorium, disgusting as that would be, would be no worse than committing the sin anywhere else.

OFFENSE IS MADE WITHIN GOD’S SANCTUARY wherever and whenever sexual immorality is committed by believers. **Every act of fornication, every act of adultery by Christians, is committed in God’s sanctuary: their own bodies.”** NOTE: Here are 3 of many Biblical directives which God gives to empower saints to avoid sexual immorality: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Timothy 2:9.

CHRISTIAN! Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit! **YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN!** You Have Been **BOUGHT** With A Price— With the Precious Blood of Jesus! **THEREFORE:** Glorify God in your body

and in your spirit, which ARE HIS!

Great Grace to all in Christ! / www.southsidegallatin.org / James

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 19 @ 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!

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

[Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/](#)

SUNDAY SERVICES: JUNE 2018— 10, 17, 24
Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship at 10:45am

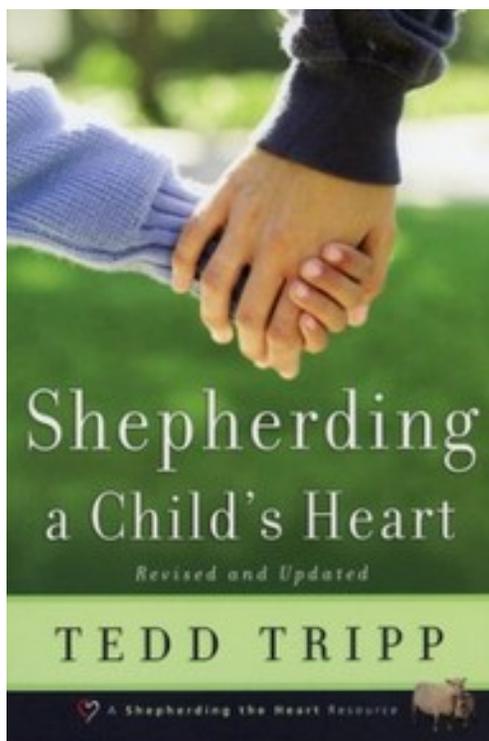
SUNDAY SERVICES, special notes—

1. JUNE 10... TRAINING FAITHFUL MEN, AT 5:30PM

2. JUNE 17... LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of Morning Worship;

HONORING FATHERS on Father's Day! HOME MEETINGS @ 5:00pm

3. JUNE 24... Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night!



Meet in Auditorium, come in FRONT DOORS! (Doors will open at 5:30pm, 6/24/18)

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

++ SOUTHSIDE DAY CAMP: June 27-29, 9:30am- 3pm ++

Questions: call Jaden Allen-

615-939-0318