

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 45, No. 30, July 24, 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."***

## **A Biblical vision for a New Testament Church!**

**This article sets forth** Biblical concepts which are important to a Biblical vision of Southside being and developing as a genuine expression of the Body of Christ in Gallatin and Sumner County, Tennessee. EACH ONE OF US should be **(1) Demonstrating Christ-like reality before others; (2) TELLING** others the GOOD NEWS Gospel of Jesus Christ; **(3)** Helping one another to GROW IN GRACE, and **(4)** Telling others about the work of Christ through Southside— for Jesus Christ, the HEAD, connects converts to local expressions of HIS BODY! **Let us PRESS FORWARD in the following Biblical paths!**

**1. The LORD JESUS CHRIST** is our only Head. We exist to worship Him, to make Him known and to do whatever He desires as He builds His church in His wisdom and power. He is the Head; we are a part of His body. He is to get all the glory. He is the source of our life. He is the decision-maker; whatever He says goes! **The attraction in authentic Christianity is JESUS CHRIST** who came to earth as the visible image of the invisible Triune God. As we walk in His steps and manifest His life we make him 'visible' to a watching world. JESUS CHRIST is the character-

pattern against which everything we do is to be evaluated. **Let us develop a passion to grow in His likeness!**

**2. The Bible is our only infallible, without lies or error, blueprint for Church life.** Jesus is the living Truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. The Bible is the written, God-breathed truth. The Living Truth gives us the written Truth quickened by the Spirit of Truth so that we may know God and His will for our lives. The written Word of God is given that we might know the God of the Word and grow in intimate fellowship with Him. The Bible expresses the mind of God without error. **The Bible is God-given and is our only authoritative rule of faith and practice.** The Bible is the supreme standard by which our conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. **Guidance from God will not conflict with the pure, written Word of God.** To claim to love JESUS CHRIST while rejecting His Word is a spirit of anti-Christ.

**3. Human traditions must bow** to the Word of God. The Word of God gives absolute truths and forms; but the Word of God also gives FREEDOMS. Whatever God has specifically laid down for us is absolute. **Example:** It is a Biblical 'absolute' that we are not to 'forsake assembling together' with other believers. It is absolute that we are to engage in 'true church work' by carrying out the many 'ONE TO ANOTHERS' toward each other. But we have FREEDOM as to meeting times as a congregation; and freedom as to precisely how to express the 'one anothers.' We are never permitted to do things that are in violation of God's Word.

**4. A COMMITMENT TO THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES:** A high view of the Bible is demonstrated when preaching and teaching is done under the presupposition that God has given to us a Bible with answers for life's questions and problems. This truth is the intent of the Holy Spirit's statement in 2 Peter 1:3, where we are clearly told that God has "*Granted to us*

*everything pertaining to life and Godliness."* **We must not substitute heart issues with psychological jargon (Matt. 15:19), or label sin as disease.** We must not turn to fables in a carnal attempt to obtain or keep folk's attention. Attentiveness to the Word of God is a spiritual, heart decision and choice!

**The ATTRACTIVENESS OF JESUS and His Word** comes by the blessed ministry of the Holy Spirit, not by a Hollywood movie clip in a sermon. The Psalmist declared the sufficiency of God's Wisdom when he said, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."* (Psalm 19:7)

**5. PREACHING & TEACHING: Biblical preaching must not be** geared toward amusing the audience; nor geared toward any other fad that comes down the pike in our entertainment oriented age. **Biblical preaching will TEACH** the faith; *CORRECT* error; *RESET* the direction of our lives; and *TRAIN* us in righteous living. **Preaching and teaching** that is true to God's Word will *EQUIP* us for every good work and supply all genuine needs! (2 Tim. 3:16-17) *"Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."* (1 Timothy 4:2)

**We live in an intense spiritual war zone. Yet, sadly,** many people seek churches who will 'tickle their ears'. They have little or no interest in sound Biblical doctrine. They want to keep their sin and be promised heaven. They love fables and religious entertainment. **At Southside, we continue to herald forth the pure Word of God!**

**6. A CLEAR GOSPEL MESSAGE:** The Gospel is the good news of Christ's death for sinners, His burial and resurrection, according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Moreover, we embrace the

Biblical truth that men and woman can reach Heaven only by grace and not through human merit of any kind. **Ephesians 2:8-9** states, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."* Furthermore, as Ephesians 2:10 demonstrates, true salvation is the work of God; and brings forth the fruit of good works. In other words, at Southside we constantly convey that salvation is— **by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, because of CHRIST alone, and UNTO good works!**

**7. God's Word gives us these three GOALS:** (1) The **Glorification** of God!

(2) The **Edification** of Believers/Saints! (3) The **Evangelization** of the world. As these are kept in balance, God makes Himself known through Southsiders in truth, in holiness, and in love. **Thus, the Kingdom of God on earth through Southsiders will be** visible in righteousness, in peace, and in joy in the Holy Spirit.

**8. When we gather, Southside is to be focused on carrying out ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES, such as—** Worship; Teaching; Mutual Ministries; The LORD'S SUPPER; Singing; Praying; Sending, Receiving, and praying for Missionaries; Carrying out discipline when needed; Praying for boldness to go back out into the world to live and proclaim the Gospel!

**9. EVANGELISM and MISSIONS is the DAILY calling, task and privilege of ALL TRUE BELIEVERS!** God calls and empowers us to REACH OUT, to minister, and to serve people who are outside of Christ. A WITNESS for Jesus tells what they have seen, heard, and experienced. They tell it truthfully and thus by the enablement of the Holy Spirit they help others to arrive at an accurate conclusion about Jesus.

**Primarily, evangelism is done out in the world where lost people live and work.** *It is out in the world that the lost are to witness righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, faith, hope, and love flowing like a river from Southsiders!* Such powerful MODELING of Jesus Christ makes our tracts and gospel presentations believable!

**Biblical Evangelism includes both, (1)** A call to the LOST to receive the Gospel of Christ and **(2)** the specific training or discipling of those who do receive Christ, so that each new believer grows in Christ-likeness and becomes an effective soldier of Christ and discipler of others.

**MISSIONS:** A church obedient to Christ will have a solid emphasis upon LIVING and sharing the Gospel, beginning in its own community and extending to the uttermost parts of the earth. Our Lord Jesus charged His disciples just prior to His ascension with these words, *"....and you shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth."* (Acts 1:11) We are to GO in person, we are to GO in prayer, and we are to GO with financial help to those SENT to the ends of the earth! **This is missions!**

**Two of the greatest hindrances to evangelism and missions today are unholy living and conflict in the churches and/or in homes.** At Southside, God continues to call us to holiness, purity, and love so as not to cancel the Gospel message we proclaim!

**10. Southside, as a local church, is a primary Missionary sending agency.** We are responsible under God to train, to recognize, and to send forth missionaries— following the pattern found in Acts 13. Those who are SENT FORTH to far-away places must have our prayers and financial support.

**BUT ALSO: We ourselves live on a 'foreign' mission field!** At the close of every Sunday's congregational meeting we must all go forth into our 'local' foreign field as freshly COMMISSIONED MISSIONARIES!

**11. Tithes and Offerings are given UNTO THE LORD to be used for His Kingdom work and ministry.** We are to first give OURSELVES. Our giving UNTO THE LORD is an expression of our STEWARDSHIP and of our GRATITUDE for God's grace in our lives.

**12. Every believer is a Minister, a Believer-Priest,** who has been graced and gifted by God so that we may lovingly labor to build up our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and labor to make Christ visible out in the world. The New Testament details and describes **the true church work of every believer**, as over 50 times the Holy Spirit calls us to minister the 'ONE ANOTHERS' to each other.

**13. DISCIPLESHIP:** The church must be equipping men and women for ministry. The mission of the church is clear, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*" (Matt. 28:19) **The call is not to merely 'count nickels and noses' so as to get the praise of men for having a crowd present.** Moreover, discipleship in a body of believers is not the exclusive responsibility of pastors.

Indeed, the primary privilege of this process lies with the assembly of saints: (Meditate upon **Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:13-26**) Christian Fellowship and Discipleship takes place in Sunday School Classes, Ladies Bible Studies, Saturday Men's meetings, and etc.

**The Holy Spirit motivates and directs** saints in service, ministry, work, and worship. When Southsiders are being led by the Holy Spirit the Church works together harmoniously and effectively.

**There are opportunities in our church services for the whole body to participate**— not only in congregational singing, receiving the Word of God, and giving; but also in testimonies and praises unto the LORD.

We must carefully embrace the call not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit; but, rather, to be being filled with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit led congregational services will manifest PRAISE to God and embrace and act upon TRUTH from God.

**14. Elders and Deacons:** EVERY MEMBER is to be a minister, a servant. Some are set forth as EXAMPLES/Servant-Leaders before the congregation. Deacons are examples of servants, they model serving in many ways. **The function of pastors/elders at Southside is to serve as “Player-Coaches” of the Congregation.**

A primary function is to EQUIP THE MEMBERS for their God-Appointed ministries, so that the whole body will be built up in love and Christ-likeness. **Pastors/Bishops/Elders,** are a team of God-called, God-ordained men who, under Christ, are called to shepherd the local church. LET US DILIGENTLY seek the LORD and trust Him for the raising up of additional men.

**16. The local church and the Home** are two Divine institutions. They should not compete but complete and complement one another. The Church should BUILD UP families. **Strong, Godly families are vital for a vibrant Congregation.** God holds parents to be primarily responsible for the training and discipling of children. The Church has a roll of support.

**THE FAMILY:** Our modern society has unleashed serious opposition to the Christian family. **To make the Christian family a priority is to** teach husbands to love and lead their

wives (Eph. 5:25); wives to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), and children to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1), and parents to train their children in the ways of the LORD (Eph. 6:4).

**We seek** to build up families! **We seek** to provide a haven for single parents by surrounding them with godly families. **We seek** to empower and supplement parents through Biblical teaching/preaching, weekly Grow in Grace Newsletters, **Sunday School classes, etc.**

**17. A local church is A BODY of believers.** Even as the MEMBERS of our human bodies are COMMITTED to ONE BODY and thus empowered TOGETHER to minister to OTHERS, even so it is in the church at Southside. We must make forward steps in this Biblical pattern.

**A SERVANT'S ATMOSPHERE:** Where the Word of God is taught and saints are growing there will be people serving. **Southside emphasizes everyone's responsibility for involvement and mutual ministry.**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45). "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh; but through love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13) **We seek to be a congregation of servants for Christ.***

**18. A HIGH VIEW OF GOD:** Jeremiah 9:23 & 24 states that the greatest quest in life worth boasting about is the quest of knowing God. We must have a PASSION to grow in Biblical knowledge of and fellowship with the True and Living God.



**19. WORSHIP and PRAISE:** The congregation's highest priority and privilege is worship. Psalm 2:11 declares, "*...Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.*" The modern trend today finds churches seeking to please congregations in whatever style of music they like. The world loves rock, rap, hip-hop, country, etc. Thus, many modern church services are more and more filled with 'Christianized' versions of people's secular loves and tastes. **However, true Christian Worship is God-centered, not man-centered.** God is worthy that we should Praise Him! Worship is for God and not for our carnal pleasure. Christian music should not be a mimic of the world.

**At Southside, we love the great hymns of the faith because they are God-focused and God-glorifying!** We also appreciate modern Christian songs, praise music, Scripture songs, etc., so long as the words are God-honoring and the accompanying music matches those words instead of sounding like the world.

**20. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is critical.** Upon Spiritual birth, all Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, (1 Cor. 12:13). We are commanded to be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit, (Eph 5:18; Col. 3:16); and we are warned not to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit, (1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30). God has given various gifts of the Holy Spirit, as it pleases Him, (1 Cor. 12:1-33; Rom. 12:1-9; Eph. 4:11-16)

**Note:** There is nothing in the New Testament that equates any of the gifts as giving a high level of spirituality or power with God. The great need is for Christians to be being filled with the Holy Spirit, overflowing with abundant evidence of the nine-fold fruit of the Holy Spirit! (Gal. 5:21-24)

**21. Serious attention should be given to make sure that Southside Church remains both united and pure.** As a part of

this process, prayerful and humble application of Biblical Standards concerning Church Discipline need to be applied.

**We must maintain a willingness to implement CHURCH DISCIPLINE.** The name of Christ will be honored and the purity of the church will be maintained only when the members of the church are willing to obey God in their commitment to lovingly and in humility of heart, confront one another:

*"And if your brother sins, Go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother." (Matt. 18:15)*  
*"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Gal. 6:1)*

**Forgiveness is both a great virtue and the key to genuine unity in the church** and/or in our homes! When we forgive each other, we tear down the barriers that are built up through sin. As Christians we are to *"Forgive each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."* (Eph. 4:12). Based upon the fact that we have received the forgiveness of God in Christ, we are to offer forgiveness to others.

**22. AS A CHURCH WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO A LIFE OF PRAYER:** Since only God can do the work of God, then we must pray. The Temple of Jesus is still to be a Temple of Prayer. Private, individual prayer and Church-wide prayer must be a priority!

**At Southside, we are committed to be and to be becoming an authentic church! We will never arrive!** We will always be in process.

WITH OUR EYES ON JESUS, we will go forward. If ever we put our eyes on man — any man — we will fragment.

**Does going forward in the practice of these Biblical concepts mean that we will be free of problems? No! —** Because people = potential problems! To go forward, we must face and deal with problems in a loving, solution-oriented, Christian manner. **I am honored to serve in your midst!**

Grace to 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 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, July 31 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*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 GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)*** 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/](http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/)

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**SUNDAY SERVICES: JULY 2018— 29**

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

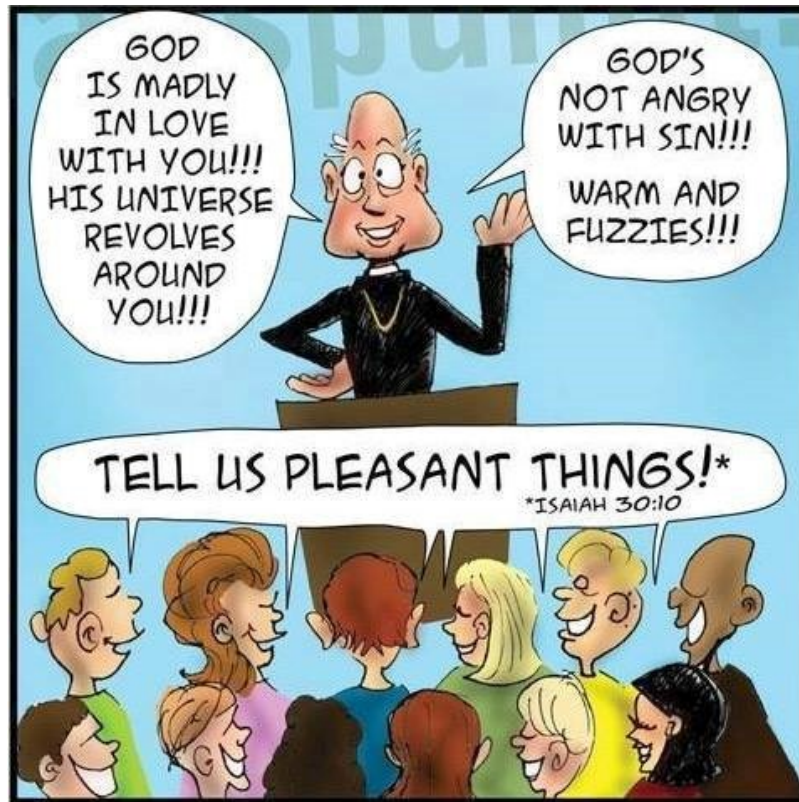
***And Worship at 10:45am***

**Fifth Sunday Evening Praise & WORSHIP @**

**6:00pm!**

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**“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...”**

(2 Timothy 4:3)

“It is ever the Holy Spirit’s work to turn our eyes away from self to JESUS; but satan’s work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ! –

Charles Spurgeon