

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 41, October 9, 2018 / South side 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."***

THE LONG ROAD OF REDEMPTION!

I am calling it the Long Road of Redemption because the history of God's redeeming mercy, love, and grace **BEGAN BEFORE** the foundation of the world; has left a 'trail' throughout history; and will continue for all eternity! Here we will briefly trace Redemption's road from Genesis through the Revelation! **LOOK AROUND YOU:** (1) Consider all that man has ever done or accomplished or that he ever will. (2) **THERE IS COMING A DAY** when this present earth **WILL BE DESTROYED**, there will be a **NEW HEAVEN** and a **NEW EARTH** (2 Peter 3:10-14); and (3) the only **SURVIVORS** from this present earth will be **ALL THOSE REDEEMED** by the blood of the **LAMB!** Obviously, this is God's priority and agenda— what is ours!?

***** 1 Corinthians 2:7** (from AMP) "... But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* once hidden [from man, but now revealed to us by God, that wisdom]

which God predestined before the ages to our glory [*to lift us into the glory of His presence*].”

***** 2 Timothy 1:9** (from AMP) “... for He delivered us *and* saved us and called us with a holy calling [a calling that leads to a consecrated life — a life set apart — a life of purpose],... **because of His own purpose and grace** [His amazing, undeserved favor] **which was granted to us in Christ Jesus before the world began** [eternal ages ago],” ...

AND Christian— because JESUS was ‘the Lamb slain from **before the foundation of the world**’ (**Revelation 13:8**) — YOU were ‘**chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world!**’ (Ephesians 1:4)

Genesis 3:15, gives the first note of God’s redemptive **PLAN**. When Adam and Eve SINNED, God did not destroy them or hold them in chains of darkness, reserving them to judgment (2 Peter 2:4) as He did the rebelling angels, (which would have served justice); **INSTEAD**, GOD set in motion the way of **REDEMPTION!** Blood **HAD** to be shed for sin to be forgiven, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Heb. 9:22). And, of course, every slain sacrificial lamb in the O.T... was looking forward, **revealing that GOD’S REDEMPTION IS A ROAD OF Substitutionary SACRIFICE, which would be accomplished by JESUS on the Cross!**

NOW: With all of mankind justly deserving nothing but the **WRATH OF HOLY GOD**— surely, mankind would welcome such amazing mercy, love, and grace! **BUT NO, THE ROAD OF REDEMPTION HAS ALWAYS FACED OPPOSITION!** Indeed, this was long ago prophesied: “*And I [GOD] will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy*

head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)
THEREFORE, one of the major HISTORICAL THREADS that runs through Scripture is the account of VARIOUS attempts to stop THE REDEMPTION OF SINNERS by prohibiting Christ from being born:

1. **Genesis 3:15--** *The Conflict, THE OPPOSITION was Announced:*
2. **Genesis 6:9, 12--** *From Seth to the Flood:* THE REDEEMER was to come through Seth’s line. **PROBLEM:** the whole human race was wallowing in gross rebellion and sin and about to face TOTAL DESTRUCTION. **BUT GOD:** Noah found grace in the eyes of God!
3. **Genesis 12 - 25--** *From the Flood to Jacob:* THE MESSIAH, THE REDEEMER was to come through Abraham. **PROBLEM:** Abraham & Sarai were old and Sarai, was barren. **BUT GOD,** Isaac was born. **PROBLEM:** Isaac’s wife was also barren; **BUT GOD** performed yet another miracle so that the promised Messiah/REDEEMER would come through the line of Jacob.
4. **Genesis 27 - Exodus 32--** Esau wanted to kill Jacob.../ Israel...
 ** Later, Pharaoh sought to destroy Israel and Moses. ***
 Afterwards, Israel sinned so greatly that God was poised to destroy them in righteous judgment. However, MOSES INTERCEDED! In every case: **BUT GOD!**
5. **I Samuel 18 - 19--** *From Israel in the Wilderness to King David:* God chose one man out of the tribe of Judah through whom THE Messiah/REDEEMER would come. **However,** more than once Saul endeavored to kill that chosen one, David. **BUT GOD!**
6. **II Kings 11--** *From David to Jezebel’s daughter, Queen Athaliah:* QUEEN Athaliah thought she had been successful in killing ALL of the royal seed. **However,** Joash, (The sole survivor of David’s royal seed!), was hidden for six years and at age seven

began to reign! **BUT GOD!**

7. Isaiah 7-- From Queen Athaliah to King Ahaz: Wicked ones sought to blot out the house of David and set up a foreign king. But in those days Isaiah prophesied, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name IMMANUEL.”

BUT GOD!

8. From King Ahaz to Queen Esther: BY THE WAY: In this brief account of satan’s attempt to destroy The people of God and her “Seed” we have advanced forward in time to about, 5BC. DURING THE DAYS of ESTHER: Wicked Haman persuaded King Ahasuerus to decree that all Jews must die! Once again the great dragon, satan, stood over the woman (Revelation 12) to devour the royal seed and to destroy all hope of merciful REDEMPTION through Messiah. **BUT GOD!**

9. Matthew - John-- From Esther to Bethlehem, to the Cross; and the Empty Tomb: THE LONG ROAD OF REDEMPTION CONTINUED—**Herod** slew all the young boys of Bethlehem, age 2 and under, as he sought to kill THE MESSIAH/REDEEMER. **BUT GOD!**

LATER, the religious leaders sought to kill THE REDEEMER, THE LAMB OF GOD, before God’s appointed time. FINALLY, satan and his children doubtless thought that the Cross was, at last, their deliverance from Messiah, REDEMPTION’S PLAN, SPOILED! HOWEVER, “up from the grave He arose, triumphant over all His foes!” **BUT GOD!**

10. Acts - Revelation-- From the Empty Tomb Until CHRIST’S RETURN: For 2000 years, satan has turned his hatred toward those who love and follow JESUS, THE REDEEMER LAMB OF GOD! (Revelation 12:6, 10-17) ***

At many different times and places through-out the centuries the followers of Messiah, the Lamb of God, have left A TRAIL OF

MARTYR'S BLOOD. HOWEVER, **BUT GOD**— they cannot be silenced, stopped, nor destroyed.

*** **AND BECAUSE** THERE HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL REMNANT IN EVERY GENERATION PRIOR TO US— **1. TODAY**, WE HAVE BIBLES. **2. TODAY**, WE HAVE THE GOSPEL; ETC.

QUESTION: WHO OF US WILL BE FAITHFUL IN OUR GENERATION?

PURPOSE— WHY ARE WE CHRISTIANS HERE ON EARTH?

1 Corinthians 2:7 (from AMP) "... But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* once hidden [from man, but now revealed to us by God, that wisdom] *which God predestined before the ages* to our glory [to lift us into the glory of His presence]." CHRISTIAN: WE SHALL BE 'LIFTED INTO THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE!'

THIS IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY... **THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE LONG ROAD OF REDEMPTION— NAMELY,** THE NUMBERLESS MULTITUDE OF ALL THOSE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB! (Revelation 22:1-5) *** WE SHALL SERVE HIM! *** WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE! *** WE SHALL REIGN WITH HIM FOREVER! AND...*UNTIL THEN... we need help and guidance for TODAY:*

2 Timothy 1:9 (from AMP) "... for He delivered us *and* saved us and called us with a holy calling [a calling that leads to a... life set apart — a life of purpose].... because of His own purpose and grace which was granted to us in Christ Jesus BEFORE the world began [eternal ages ago]" CHRISTIAN: GOD SAVED YOU... FOR A LIFE OF PURPOSE! **BUT... WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?** Romans 8:29 Amplified Bible: "For those whom He foreknew [and loved and chose beforehand], He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son!"

*** THEREFORE, CHRISTIAN: Since we are PREDESTINED for Christ-likeness... we should carefully behold how the MAN CHRIST JESUS WALKED WHILE ON EARTH! **JESUS:**

1. At age 12 to about 30→ (a) “I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER’S BUSINESS!”- Luke 2:49. **(b)** He submitted to God-ordained authority! - Luke 2:51. **(c)** He grew in grace - Luke 2:52.

2. From about age 30, onward: (a) JESUS overcame satan simply by the SHIELD OF FAITH, the Word of God: Matthew 4:1-10; **(b)** He began to preach/teach/minister... in the most antagonistic of circumstances: Luke 4:16-30;

(c) JESUS was willingly BOUND by one MASTER PASSION, which is repeatedly set forth, especially in the Gospel of John—

*** *“I only SAY what the Father tells Me to say; *** I only DO what the Father tells Me to do; *** WITHOUT My Father, I CAN DO NOTHING!”* (John 4:34; 5:17, 19-22, 26, 30, 36-37; 6:38, 44, 57; 7:16, 28; 8:26, 28)

3. As a result, JESUS DID NOT FIT THE MOLD of that for which the Jews were looking. He would not support their agenda. They especially hated it when Jesus set forth the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD in salvation (John 6:33-65) THUS, ** THEY LEFT; ** THEY TURNED ON HIM; ** THEY CRUCIFIED HIM. BUT... THAT’S NOT THE END OF THE STORY: *Phil 2:7-11*

NOW CHRISTIANS... WHAT ABOUT US? The model of the steps of JESUS are before us!

BUT SADLY, WE HAVE A HARD TIME HAVING MUCH VISION, PLACE, and PRIORITY for walking in the steps of JESUS— for while we KNOW He was loved... we also are not blind to the reality of HIS REJECTION!

To the **MASSES** JESUS was and He has remained— “Out of place... an alien’ to society! **AND THE LAST THING WE WANT WHILE HERE IN GALLATIN, SUMNER COUNTY... IS TO GIVE ANY APPEARANCE OR EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE ALIENS! THUS, MUCH OF MODERN CHRISTIANITY is intentionally programed to** leave church members COMFORTABLE and ACCEPTED by the world!

It’s the old unspoken attitude of, “I want the results NOAH got (saved from the wrath of God); but I do not want to LOOK AS FOOLISH and as NON-RELEVANT as Noah did to his neighbors!” **BEWARE: THE WIDE GATE and the BROAD WAY LEAD TO DESTRUCTION!** (Matthew 7:13-27)

WE MUST EMBRACE THESE VERSES— We are called to be ‘strangers’... ALIENS’... We are to be so HEAVENLY MINDED THAT we are, by God’s accounting, of great earthly good!

*** 1 Peter 2:9-12 *** Hebrews 11:13-16 *** John 17:14-16

CHRIST-LIKENESS!

NOT OF THIS WORLD!

THE DAYS ARE EVIL! WE ARE CALLED TO BE REDEEMING THE TIME → Ephesians 5:16-21

THE LONG ROAD OF REDEMPTION— HERE ARE a few examples of how we can live redemptively, redeeming the time, in OUR DAY:

1. One day last week was yet another anniversary of the martyrdom of BUT ONE mere man; but what a powerful difference WILLIAM TYNDALE made! **God often does mighty things through JUST ONE. (It might be** the prayers of just one 'unknown' faithful Christian!)

Or just one Scripture (1 Timothy 1:15) **PROCLAIMED on a street** by a person even yet known only to God, heard by one 17 year old boy, who later founded Hindustan Bible Institute in India! **IN THIS DARK HOUR, LET US NOT BE ASHAMED TO SPEAK FORTH THE WORD OF GOD!**

Do not under estimate the power of what God will accomplish through **JUST ONE CHRISTIAN... JUST ONE CONGREGATION!!**

2. THE HOUR IS DARK! GOD'S STRATEGY? The Epistles and the 7 letters of Jesus, (His last words to His church) **call us away from our own darkness and waywardness.** JESUS calls **us** to REPENT! **We want the culture and politicians to repent! JESUS IS CALLING ON US to repent!**

3. POWERFUL IMPACT: When the GOSPEL takes hold of even one SIN SLAVE— such ones are SET FREE and, as a result the SIN PROFITS OF THE WORLD go in recession! The money-grubbers get mad; and they team up to bring persecution of saints! And God ADVANCES THE GOSPEL! (Acts 16:16-40)

4. POWERFUL IMPACT: Former SIN SLAVES are now Christians— they don't LAMENT all the BAD BOOKS in society (today... would certainly include all manner of PORN!) — **they just gather and BURN THEIR OWN BAD BOOKS!** (Acts 19:13-20).... and the GOSPEL ADVANCED! **[WHAT NEEDS TO BE GATHERED FROM SOUTHSIDERS AND BURNT?]**

5. AS TO ABORTION; and all manner of SEXUAL PERVERSIONS; and DIVORCE— WHAT A POWERFUL IMPACT ON SOCIETY there will be **IF/WHEN Christians cease** immorality of all forms; **IF/WHEN Christians cease getting abortions; IF/WHEN Christians honor their marriage vows;** and manifest HOLINESS and the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit??!!

6. And as we PRAY FOR OUR NATION, we might do well to pray after the manner of Daniel of old. He was a GODLY YOUNG MAN...

He was a slave in a foreign land... due to the sin of OTHERS... BUT WHEN DANIEL PRAYED— He prayed, 'WE have sinned...!' (See Daniel 9)

BOTTOM LINES:

CHRISTIAN: God is calling US to BEHOLD JESUS, who while on earth, MODELED FOR us the way of LIVING REDEMPTIVELY, living to only PLEASE the FATHER: *** "I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!"- Luke 2:49. *** He submitted to God-ordained authority! - Luke 2:51. *** He grew in grace - Luke 2:52. *** He overcame satan simply by the SHIELD OF FAITH, the Word of God: Matthew 4:1-10; *** He preached/taught/ministered in the most antagonistic of circumstances... and never slowed down: Luke 4:16-30! **HIS SECRET?**

JESUS was willingly BOUND by one MASTER PASSION: *"I only SAY what the Father tells Me to say; I only DO what the Father tells Me to do; WITHOUT My Father, I CAN DO NOTHING!"* (John 4:34; 5:17, 19-22, 26, 30, 36-37; 6:38, 44, 57; 7:16, 28; 8:26, 28)

EMPOWERED BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT, WE ARE CALLED TO WALK IN THE STEPS OF JESUS!

AND, again... let us live with HOPE SET BEFORE US: **THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE LONG ROAD OF REDEMPTION:** (Revelation 22:1-5)

*** *WE SHALL SERVE HIM!*

*** *WE SHALL SEE HIS FACE!*

*** *WE SHALL REIGN WITH HIM FOREVER!*

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—

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...**

(Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 23 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE. ENTER at the back of the church building, [Doors open at 10:30am... 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!**

SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

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

SUNDAY SERVICES: October 14, 21, 28

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

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. October 14 — 5:30pm, Faithful Men! Shepherding the Heart of a Child

2. October 21— LORD'S SUPPER at conclusion of the Morning Worship Service

HOME GROUPS MEET at 5:00pm

3. October 28 — PLEASE NOTE CHANGE JUST FOR 10/28— 6:00pm, JOHN MACKAY, of Creation Research!

*** [We will continue the monthly, church-wide equipping hour... presently SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART, November 25]