

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 46, November 13, 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."***

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND IS AT OUR DOORSTEP: NOVEMBER, Thursday 22 - Sunday 25! HERE'S SOME 'ADVANCE NOTICE' Helps in Being Ready!

1. SOME will have extra time off from work. LET US list and count our blessings; and LET US Meditate upon His Word, pray, and worship Almighty God through Jesus Christ, by His blessed Holy Spirit.

2. SOME of you will be visiting family and/or friends back home or family and/or friends will be coming to you. There will be grand opportunities to manifest genuine "JESUS IS SAVIOR AND LORD faith!"

EXAMPLES:

On Sunday, November 25— at "their" home or at yours, **be prepared in advance** to be present in Sunday School and Worship Services. (LIKEWISE, FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 & 30!)

NOTE: It is tragically common on Holiday weekends for folk to take a vacation from Sunday School Bible Study and Fellowship

and from Sunday Worship services. **The tired excuses are always the same:**

"O we had a house full of company!" "We did not bring any clothes for church!" This is just one more reason lost family members and children in the home have the feeling that Christianity is a joke... a crutch... **something totally insignificant and unworthy of top priority!**

ACTUALLY, Holidays give Christians wonderful opportunities to humbly and unashamedly show who is LORD of our lives!

It is as simple as, "Folks, on Sunday our family will be in Sunday School and Worship services... we would love for you to go with us! If you choose not to, you are welcome to "make yourselves at home" until we get back, etc."

During these days, even as God has instructed us in His Word, let us give love and ministry to others, doing good to all but especially to brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thanksgiving and other holidays also provide good opportunities to build bridges to the lost: Share a meal. Watch a game, or play some games, go hunting, etc. Love unconditionally. Don't corner or pressure... just radiate Christ.

Manifest great gladness at the prospects of gathering with the saints for Bible Study and Worship... Invite them to join in with you but place ZERO pressure and avoid any spirit of condemnation. **THIS THANKSGIVING... and daily:**

- 1. Let us be a people of GRATEFUL HEARTS.**
- 2. Let us be a people of OPEN HEARTS.**
- 3. Let us be a people of SHARING HEARTS.**
- 4. Let us be a people of LOVING HEARTS.**

5. LET US BE PEOPLE WITH **HEARTS FULL OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD!**

GIVING THANKS THIS THANKSGIVING!

(First section of this article is drawn from *Thank-You Therapy: The Cure For Anxiety*, by Don Baker]

“Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

1. GIVING THANKS IS AN ACT OF FAITH!

The ultimate objective of our Heavenly Father is to bring us to a place of unwavering trust and confidence in Him. A promise from God **is** reality. It need not be visible or tangible. The promise need only to be from God to be real!

Giving Thanks is acting on the Word of God, in faith! **Giving Thanks** is anchored in one or more of God’s promises, appropriate for the situation, and then praising Him for the coming fulfillment! **Thanks giving is Giving Thanks** to God for the answer before it is received!

(Example: As in GIVING THANKS for all that AWAITS us in Christ for all eternity!) **Giving Thanks** is most powerful when we do it on the basis of God’s promise rather than on the basis of the fulfillment of a petition.

2. GIVING THANKS IS AN ACT OF FAITH IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD!

HOW BLESSED WE ARE THAT GOD IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN! God in His good sovereignty **has the total freedom to do all of His good pleasure**. He does as He pleases and with whom He pleases and when He pleases. Moreover, IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, He

has ordained “sowing and reaping.” He even grants satan permission to “sift” us, as He did Peter; or as He did Job. Often we do not have any idea what is going on — the deformity of a baby, the earthquake, the hurricane, the tornado, the gunman, CANCER, the drunk...and the list goes on and on! *BUT **IN EVERYTHING** let us **Give Thanks, resting on God’s good sovereignty!***

Resting in God’s SOVEREIGNTY enables us to **Give Thanks** to the One who has **brought and/or allowed** whatever it is that’s the cause of our anxiety; and to know that He could have controlled or stopped it if He had so wished. And since He did not stop “it”...or since He allowed “it” — we rest in the reality that,

“Infinite Wisdom and Unchanging Love conspired with Almighty Power to cause something that’s for His great glory and our ultimate good!”

PLEASE NOTE: Giving Thanks is not, “Praise God, the child is deformed ... or Praise God, I have terminal cancer!” BUT RATHER: **I Give Thanks**, O Good and Sovereign God that all things have a divine reason; and are ordered by You **to work for good IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO LOVE YOU.**

Giving Thanks is not a psychological ploy or tool designed to lessen the impact of life’s problems that may rush in like a flood in this fallen world.

BUT RATHER, as **I Give Thanks, I find my mind’s focus put in order—** “**Shall the clay say to the Potter, ‘What doest Thou?’**”

Giving Thanks is not intended to change circumstances. **Its purpose is to transform my attitudes**, keeping me free from resentment and bitterness; **and bringing me back to humility** and to valuing the soul!

Giving Thanks is to be given in everything but not necessarily for everything. For at the very least, I am humbled and moved to live by faith in the good, sovereign wisdom of God.

Giving Thanks lifts the gaze of my heart from self and circumstances and people to Almighty God, so that now I cry out, **“O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”** (Romans 11:33)

3. GIVING THANKS IS “STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD!”

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (*1 John 1:9*) Thus, **Giving Thanks** for the reality of these truths is **faith in the forgiving grace of God**. In fact, how often I have confessed my sin and asked God to forgive me... **but there was still a dark cloud of awareness of guilt** and feelings of “God won’t forgive me this time!” SO, IN SPITE OF THESE FEELINGS, **I GIVE THANKS** to God for already having forgiven me! Such is the ongoing power of the blood of Jesus!

Such is the reality of Holy God’s total satisfaction with what Christ accomplished on the Cross! **Giving Thanks** causes the heavy burden of guilt to fall off!!! **Moreover, it is for these very reasons that I totally reject the** “I must learn to forgive myself” false teaching!

NOTE: There are an uncountable number of objective truths in the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit will bring before us... **but we only experience them by active faith and trust. Giving Thanks** is powerful, active trust in God and His Word!

4. GIVING THANKS FOR THE UNKNOWN!

Giving Thanks is an act of faith in God’s ability to guide His children with supreme wisdom, unfailing love, and unconquerable power. **Giving Thanks** empowers us to walk into the unknown and stand in the presence of the unfamiliar, for **Giving Thanks** is faith that God is capable of showing His children what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go; and that He has the power to

make sure that we get home safe!

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you” (Ps. 32:8). **Giving Thanks** is thanking God in the midst of the problem — not for the problem, but for the outcome! (Heb. 12:11) **Giving Thanks** says, “Thank you, Father, that even though all discipline seems **not to be joyful but sorrowful**, yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” **Giving Thanks** focuses on what we know to be true based on God’s Holy Word, in spite of what we may see or feel! We are **Giving Thanks** to God for triumph even though present circumstances suggest defeat!

5. GIVING THANKS AND ANXIETY ABOUT GOD’S PROVISION!

Giving Thanks is not a means of getting what we want; rather, it rests in the promise of God to provide us with what we need. It is not a plea for provision; it’s a response to a promise. **Giving Thanks** is not only for what God has given; but also for what God is going to give! **Giving Thanks** is relaxing in the promises of the sustaining grace of God and enjoying His peace as we trust in His good providential care!

Giving Thanks is most powerful when focused on expressing gratitude over **the incredible attributes of Almighty God!** **Faith is fueled by prayerfully musing upon the attributes of God!**

6. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT GOD’S TIMING!

Giving Thanks is not designed to change God’s timetable or speed up the divine program. Rather, it helps me adjust myself and my schedule to His! **Giving Thanks** does not get my wishes granted quicker— rather, it helps me to patiently wait... to **Thank Him** for His infinite wisdom that controls all His decisions and His perfect timing.

7. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT

PRAYER!

Giving Thanks and Praise to God is the primary form of prayer in Scripture! **Giving Thanks** to God for who He is focuses our confidence, not in the act of prayer, **but in the Living God who solicits prayer, hears prayer, and answers prayer.** We do not always know how to pray, but the Holy Spirit enables and empowers our **Thanks Giving.**

8. GIVING THANKS and OVERCOMING ANXIETY ABOUT DEATH!

THANK YOU, FATHER, for the promise of the resurrection...that I will be with You forever! (1 Thess. 4:13-18) **THANK YOU, FATHER,** that You have already prepared a place for me (John 14:1-2); that You designed it (Heb. 11:10); that You have even described it and that it will be my eternal home (Rev. 21-22).

THANK YOU, FATHER for plentiful mercy, plentiful pardon, plentiful peace, plentiful redemption, plentiful forgiveness, plentiful grace, and abundant love.

NOW, AT THE FOUNTAINHEAD of a huge host of wicked sins, GOD PLACES THESE TWO:

(1) Not glorifying God as God!

(2) Not offering unto God praise and thanksgiving! (Note: To get the full impact, one must read Romans 1:22-32!)

God's Commands and Promises are Wonderfully Clear:

1. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18)

2. "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS: and again I say **rejoice...**be anxious about nothing; but in everything by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:4-7)

3. Whether we are in the ecstasy of jubilation or the agony of desperation— It is a good thing to give thanks: Psalm 92.

4. Thanksgiving sanctifies all aspects of life, including suffering:

2 Thessalonians 5:18.

5. There is always something significant to thank God for with everything God brings or allows in our lives: **Ephesians 5:20.**

6. We are able to give thanks in these ways because we have confidence that God is working everything together for the specific good of conforming us into the image of Jesus Christ: **Romans 8:28-29.**

7. Moreover, it is a repeated, wonderful command that we are to be thankful: **Colossians 3:15; Psalm 100:4.**

8. In a marvelous way, the giving of thanks is connected with saving faith: **Luke 17:11-19. Note:** A lack of faith and a spirit of ingratitude go together!

Thanksgiving and Praise Often Involve Sacrifice:

1. Let us give verbal praise and thanksgiving unto the LORD: **"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a SACRIFICE OF PRAISE, the fruit of lips that confess His name."** (Hebrews 13:15)

2. The most astounding example of THANKSGIVING comes from the lips of Jesus! Standing before His disciples, Jesus *"took the cup, and gave thanks"* (Matthew 26:27).

As you know, that cup contained wine which was representative of His own blood which He was soon to shed for the sins of the whole world.

It was the cup of death, and yet with the very shadow of the Cross upon Him, Jesus gave THANKS!

Crowded into that cup were

(1) Your sins and mine,

(2) The wrath of God against those sins and

(3) The very sacrifice of Himself for us. Instead of shrinking back, He quietly "**took the cup, and gave thanks!**" **O how doomed we all would be were it not for the miracles which come forth from the fountain of JESUS' SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING!**

NOW: Now, many more miracles wait to be manifested, especially upon the undeserving ones of our world! Let us walk in the steps of Jesus. **Let the miracles come forth!**

Grace to you! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org



SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. (This ministry is presently ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

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, JANUARY 8, 2019 @ 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 @ 8:00am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!***) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

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

SUNDAY SERVICES: November 18, 25

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

NOTES as to meetings AFTER Morning Worship Services:

1. November 18— LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of Morning Worship // HOME GROUPS... 5pm

2. November 25 — 6:00pm... Church-wide EQUIPPING HOUR, presently: SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART!

Advance notes on December Schedule:

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

ALL 5 SUNDAYS: Sunday School at 9:30am /Worship at 10:45am

ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:

1. December 2 — Noon, Covered Dish Fellowship Meal! (NOTE: This year, instead of missing Sunday School for a brunch... we will focus on this 12/2 COVERED DISH MEAL... 'Lunch or Brunch' items are welcome at the NOON FELLOWSHIP!)

2. December 9— 5:30pm... Monthly Faithful Men's Meeting

3. December 16— DURING the worship hour,

***** The Choir and/or others...** will share extra music, as we REJOICE in the BIRTH OF CHRIST];

****** WE WILL PREACH the Word of God; and**

******* Conclude with the LORD'S SUPPER!**

NO evening HOME GROUPS

4. December 23— NO evening service

5. December 30— NO 5TH Sunday Evening Service

Five college students went to hear C. H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me

show you around. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE HEATING PLANT OF THIS CHURCH?" It was a hot day in July; but they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented.

The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered,

"THIS IS OUR HEATING PLANT!" -- There they saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking the LORD'S blessing on the Church service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above! Softly closing the door, the 'guide' then introduced himself. It was Charles Spurgeon.

WELL.....

1. DOES THE CHURCH FAMILY to which I am joined have a 'HEATING PLANT' GATHERING?
2. AM I A COMMITTED 'HEATING PLANT' GATHERING MEMBER?

3. POSSIBLE GENUINE PROBLEM: "The present scheduled time does not work for me." SOLUTION: Find one that does... and ask others to join in with you! (ONE Example... the Iron Steps door is open on Sunday mornings by 8:20am.....)