

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 49, December 4, 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."***

MANIFESTING MIRACLES OF GOD'S LOVE, THIS DECEMBER!

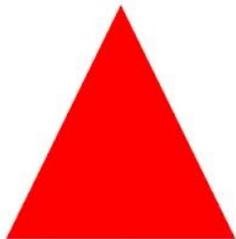
I GOOGLED 'Holiday Depression' and got 13,000,000 hits! HOWEVER, be it holidays or any other time— depression, drug addiction, suicides, murders, theft, divorce, and/or simply on going conflict and unhappiness are on the RAMPAGE— even among church folk, in both pulpits and pews!

Here is reality:

(1) REALITY: Even though, for many, there is increased stress during holidays, regardless of the time of year: **MOST fussin' feudin', fightin', resentments, bitterness, and MUCH depression, etc. — ARE RELATED TO UNMET Rights and Expectations!**

(2) GREATER REALITY— JOY and HAPPINESS ARE NOT based upon, not dependent upon others fulfilling our 'rights and expectations!'

Read on! Embrace! Share with others! EXPERIENCE GREAT JOY!



The above triangle and Altar of sacrifice.

THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE: In the Old Testament, an Altar of Sacrifice was a place of death for the innocent in the place of the guilty. The sacrifices were substitutionary. Today, thankfully, the Christian is blessed to sing, ***“JESUS PAID IT ALL!”*** All of the Old Testament sacrifices looked forward to the coming of JESUS, the ultimate sacrifice. Thus, upon seeing JESUS, John Baptist cried out, ***“BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!” [ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME!!— Hebrews 10:1-14]***

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us to, ***“Deny yourselves, take up your cross daily, and follow Me!”*** (Luke 9:23) THE CALL OF GOD to salvation and the divine way of daily Christian living is, indeed, **a call to come and die;** and it is **an infusion of divine life** so that we are RAISED to new life in Christ.

THEREFORE, our new master passion is as Paul’s own testimony: ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of***

God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20) **In genuine Christianity there is the reality of TRIPLE CRUCIFIXION:**

***** 1. Christ crucified in my place— fully paying my sin debt! *** 2. I AM CRUCIFIED— even as stated in Galatians 2:20 and in Galatians 5:24! *** 3. The world crucified to me and I to the world — as stated in Galatians 6:14!**

In another place, Paul testifies, **“I die daily!”** Jesus calls His followers to, **‘Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me!’** In Christ, we are DEAD to sin’s dominion, (Romans 6:14-22).

THUS, IN DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING it is in the sense of our daily dying to self that we sometimes speak of ‘laying everything on the altar!’

AGAIN: Jesus tells us to, **“(1) Deny yourselves, (2) take up your cross daily, and (3) follow Me!”** (Luke 9:23) JUST WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

1. I DENY myself from doing, saying, thinking what I WANT TO... what I feel I have a right to do, say, or think... because of how you or someone else has treated me. INSTEAD, AS A CHRISTIAN I have and embrace my assignment— TO DO, SAY, THINK WHAT JESUS TELLS ME and HAS MODELED BEFORE ME!

GLORIOUS REALITY: REGARDLESS of how JESUS WAS treated, He kept His focus on DOING HIS FATHER’S WILL. **Now, He lives within** EVERY genuine Christian by the power of the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT, to do in and through us what He has always done— PLEASE GOD THE FATHER!

For example, in marriage: As a husband, my assignment is to LOVE MY WIFE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH. Nothing my wife does or says EVER changes my assignment! GOD NEVER gives me a ‘pass’ or an ‘excuse slip’ so as to remove me from the PRIVILEGE and responsibility of obeying my assignment as an act of WORSHIP to God!

2. In other words, I take up my cross— my identification with Christ, my willingness to WALK IN THE STEPS OF JESUS, laying down my life for

others for JESUS SAKE, especially for the unworthy, the unloving, and the unresponsive!

3. SO, in profound simplicity and in MIRACLE STEPS— I follow JESUS! I do not follow the world. I do not follow my feelings. I do not follow what others say. I FOLLOW JESUS! Again, I am to walk in the steps of Jesus who laid down His life for the unworthy, the unloving, and the unresponsive— empowered and motivated by the indwelling compelling HOLY SPIRIT!

NO, I do not have perfection in this walk... but I am ON THE WAY! And if I fall down— I will not blame anything or anyone! I will repent, rest in and rejoice in His continuing forgiveness; and get up and go forward in faith. SUCH IS THE PATH AND POWER OF GENUINE CHRISTIANITY!

NOW, WITH THIS BACKGROUND... Here is Bible-based truth to help me with RELATIONSHIPS with others.

WE START with the reality of the TRIANGLE:



All human relationships operate in a 'triangle' fashion!

That is, all relationships have 3 sides— we have rights, expectations, and responsibilities. Sometimes rights and expectations may overlap. Sometimes rights and expectations are based on what is good, honorable, and Biblical. On the other hand, they can be based on tradition, on how I was raised, or even upon selfishness, etc.

REALITY: About 99.999999% of all ANGER in relationships is in direct proportion to the fact that someone has VIOLATED or neglected our rights and/or expectations— OR at least we believe that they have... OR... they believe that we have violated their rights and/or expectations!

THUS, MOST fussin' feudin', fightin', resentments, bitterness, and etc... are about UNMET rights and expectations!

In such settings every time someone dishes out an accusation of real or imagined unmet needs, rights, and expectations— usually the only thing accomplished is that the other party now has more ammunition. THIS BATTLE OF OPPOSING ACCUSATIONS will provide enough ammo to shoot against one another until hell freezes.

COMMON to these tragic wars are the battle tactics of

- (1)** Defending self and accusing others;
- (2)** Blame-shifting and putting up smoke-screens;
- (3)** Confessing the real or imagined sins/faults of the other person ***instead of obeying Scripture and only confessing OUR OWN faults!*** (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9); **and**
- (4) Gathering an army of supporters to promote ‘our side’—** thus, it is no wonder that ‘emotional blood and guts’ lie everywhere!
- (5) CRITICAL ALERT:** The longer these self-serving, sin-filled, satan-pleasing tactics are used there will be growing hardness of heart, resentments, bitterness, hopelessness, depression, conflict, and destruction of families, destruction of churches, and above all a deepening REJECTION of Jesus Christ!

When we are fighting such wars with such tactics—

No one is focused on heeding their God-given responsibilities

Or their GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENTS!

Moreover we feel fully justified for not carrying out our God-given responsibilities— for, after all, ‘the other person’ - (spouse, fellow church member, relative, neighbor, or whoever) - is not carrying out theirs!

“He/she/they are not meeting MY needs. He/she/they are not loving me the way I NEED to be loved. IN FACT, he/she/they are being down-right evil toward me. I have it all documented!

Therefore, I AM EXCUSED from my God-given responsibilities! He/she/they need counseling— I don’t... except to share how he/she/they

have deeply wounded me! Of course, I am not perfect; but he/she/they are the ones with serious problems— not me!”

YES, from time to time, others in our world do and say bad things and those bad things can wound and HURT. Legitimate rights and expectations are not met.

However, none of this excuses us from our own God-given responsibilities!

REALITY: WARS escalate. Love and hope dies. Divorce follows... or church splits... or worse— ALL BECAUSE OF HOW WE MIS-HANDLE RIGHTS, EXPECTATIONS, and RESPONSIBILITY!

JESUS MODELS A RADICALLY DIFFERENT WAY!!

1. JESUS had far worse and more BAD THINGS done to Him than we have had done to us! 2. Unlike us, JESUS did not deserve any of them! 3. Yet, Jesus was not destroyed by such evil. Hope never died! **His JOY was never lessened!** 4. JESUS was not EVER sidetracked from His God given RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHAT WAS JESUS' SECRET?

1. JESUS YIELDED HIS RIGHTS! Through His life, death, and resurrection, **Jesus Christ gives us a striking example of complete obedience and surrender to God.** In the Book of Philippians, we read that although Jesus was equal with God, He humbled Himself to live among men and to redeem them from the bondage of sin.

In order to fulfill the direction of God the Father, **Jesus yielded His right to wealth, to a good reputation, to be served, to enjoy physical comforts, and to make His own decisions. The evil that was dumped on Jesus was unspeakable— yet He never took His eyes off His responsibilities!**

**** “BUT I’M NOT JESUS!” Don’t be shocked— but I knew that!**
Neither am I! HOWEVER, Christians by the Holy Spirit have JESUS

INDWELLING. We have divine life and power, and commands from Jesus to walk in His steps:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:5–8).

2. Jesus Yielded His Right to Wealth! In order for Jesus Christ to redeem men and women from sin, He left the splendor, beauty, and majesty of heaven.

Jesus is God, the Creator of all things; He had a right to enjoy all wealth and riches (see Colossians 1:15–17), yet **He confined Himself to the limited means of a carpenter’s household.**

3. Jesus Yielded His Right to a Good Reputation among men: In heaven, Jesus is continually worshiped and His name highly honored. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. When Jesus came into the world, however, He “*made himself of no reputation*” (Philippians 2:7). Rather than being born into wealth and prominence, **Jesus was born into poverty and obscurity.** Religious leaders claimed that Jesus was born of fornication. JESUS only went about doing good— even so, He lost popularity and his character was maliciously slandered. ***** Christ’s ultimate humiliation came when He was arrested, falsely accused, and crucified.** “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*” (Galatians 3:13).

REALITY: Regardless of the cost, Jesus lived on earth to please His Father. He did not come to be served. He did not come to demand His rights. He did not react in anger when He was violated. He stayed focused on doing His Father’s will. **THUS, JESUS WAS ANOINTED WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE ALL OTHERS! Joy and Happiness are not dependent upon Others Treating us Right!**

1 Peter 2:19-21: “For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. **For what credit *is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?*** But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:..” (NKJV)

1 Peter 4:12-16: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **but rejoice** to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, **blessed are you**, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” (NKJV)

A SPECIAL WORD TO LADIES WITH HUSBANDS WHO DO NOT KNOW OR WHO ARE NOT FOLLOWING JESUS— 1 Peter 3:1-4: “... even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives. Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. **You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.**” (NLB)

STRONG REALITY: I may or may not have grief and sorrow from the wrong of others toward me— but those are ‘clean wounds’... and they will heal as I walk with Jesus.

THE ONLY THING that destroys me and weighs me down with UNHAPPINESS and HOPELESS is my own response of REFUSING my God-given responsibilities and replacing them with

defensiveness and accusations— thus, creating self-inflicted **dirty, infected wounds which breed resentment, bitterness, and hardness of heart.**

4. Jesus Yielded His Right to Be Served! As the Creator of every living person, Christ has the right to have others serve Him. However, when Jesus came to earth, He did not demand the service of others. Instead, **He took opportunities to demonstrate humble service.** Jesus was sensitive to the needs of those around Him. He healed the diseased, delivered those possessed with evil spirits, restored the disabled, provided food for the hungry, and more.

On the evening of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, **He washed the feet of His disciples,** who were shocked by His actions. Jesus said to them... and to us...

*“. . . He said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.***

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them**” (John 13:12-17).*

***** Happiness is not in having my rights and expectations met! Happiness is in serving UNWORTHY others because we want to please Jesus, in gratitude for all JESUS has done for us!**

***** The attitudes and actions of 'others' may or may not deserve that we serve them— however, **JESUS ALWAYS DESERVES that we heed his Word and walk in His SERVING footsteps!****

Dr. Ed Wheat, author of *LOVE LIFE FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE* reveals that at the beginning of his Christian life his wife and children

were unresponsive to both the gospel and to him. **He states that, “prolonged rejection... drove me to the Word of God to learn exactly what I should do.**

I learned that it was my responsibility to love my wife the way Christ loved me. Many times I did not feel like loving her, for rejection, even quiet, courteous rejection is hard to handle. BUT I DID IT OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD!

I found that as I put the principles of the Bible into practice and as I really learned how to love my wife, **this became PLEASURE as well as responsibility. OBEDIENCE TOOK ON THE BRIGHT COLORS OF JOY!”**

5. Jesus Yielded His Right to Physical Comforts! Jesus met the demands of a heavy daily schedule by practicing personal disciplines. His lifestyle of traveling, teaching, and ministering to the needs of people along the way did not include many of life’s basic comforts. When a man told Christ that he wanted to become His disciple, Jesus warned him, *“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”* (Matthew 8:20). The Gospel of Mark records **the strenuous schedule of a typical day in Jesus’ public ministry.** (Mark 1:32–35).

6. Jesus Yielded His Right to Make His Own Decisions! Perhaps the most difficult right to yield is that of making final decisions. **Yet, if we do not fully yield this right to God, we will not develop a spirit of meekness or walk in true humility before God.**

Jesus lived in complete surrender to God’s direction. When Christ was twelve years old, He understood His calling and expressed His desire to be about His heavenly Father’s business. (Luke 2:49.) **He yielded to God’s direction through His IMPERFECT parents** and waited until He was thirty years old to begin His public ministry. (Luke 3:22–23.)

During His ministry years, Jesus made no decisions independently but did only what His heavenly Father directed Him to do. (John 8:28.)

Continually, His attitude was ***“not my will, but Thine be done”*** (Luke 22:42).

When Christ was arrested and placed under civil authorities, God carried out His ultimate will through their decisions. (John 19:11, 28-30.)

Jesus’ obedience to the directions of His Father enabled Jesus to complete the work He was called to do and to fulfill the Scriptural prophecies about His life. (Philippians 2:9-11).

Jesus gave two specific words as to the disposition/attitude He maintained while on earth— MEEKNESS and LOWLINESS of heart!

Every step of the way as He YIELDED HIS RIGHTS, He was revealing **meekness and lowliness. Being channels for MEEKNESS and LOWLINESS is the grand and open secret of happiness and peace in relationships!**

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

MEEKNESS: I yield all of my personal rights and expectations to God, SO THAT I am ‘clay in His hands’ for Him to accomplish His will in my life!

THUS, CONFESS: ***“JESUS, like Dr. Ed Wheat, I totally embrace my God-given responsibilities to do them as an act of worship to you, regardless of what others in my life may or may not be doing, leaving all results in your hand. LORD JESUS, you are worthy that I serve and worship you in this manner!”***

OWNERSHIP: I am not an owner. I am a steward. I belong to God by right of Him being my Creator and REDEEMER. I am BOUGHT with a price. **I belong to JESUS. JESUS has exclusive right to manifest HIMSELF in and through me for His glory!** Any attitude, word or deed which does not manifest CHRIST and please Christ— **I REJECT! I die to my**

supposed 'rights' and I embrace my God-give responsibilities/ASSIGNMENTS!

[Portions of article suggested from a booklet, *YIELDING RIGHTS*]

Grace, Joy, and Peace in Christ! James Bell

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: December 9, 16, 23, 30

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

ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:

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

2. 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

3. December 23— NO evening service

4. December 30— NO 5TH Sunday Evening Service