

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 8, February 27, 2019 / 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."***

'NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS!' ... BUT, in REALITY, THE POWER OF PORN IS UNDERESTIMATED!



2/21/2019... A Florida police detective and children's minister committed suicide after being investigated for having child pornography. Detective Vernon Allan Richardson, a beloved children's minister and award-winning veteran officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, **killed himself Tuesday as authorities investigated him for possession of child pornography**, some of which was found on his church computer. Richardson had been with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for 17 years and served as Riverstone's children's pastor for eight years. The Senior Pastor of the church said, ***"Never in a million years would you ever thought that was possible."*** The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office reportedly began investigating Richardson in December after receiving a tip about him possessing child porn. **The children's pastor was questioned on Feb. 1**, after an image showing two naked boys

ages 12 to 14 committing a sexual act had been uploaded to a computer, the Times-Union said. Investigators then went to Richardson's home and served him with a search warrant. **He "denied any and all allegations" but confirmed watching pornography on his cellphone**, police records note.

"When asked what he looks up, he stated 'sex with wives,'" the documents said. "After the interview was concluded, the defendant spontaneously uttered, ***'If I was going to watch child pornography, I wouldn't be stupid enough to upload it or download it.'***" The pastor's computer was seized and two images classified as child pornography were found, police said. **One was of a nude boy 7 to 9, the other of a nude girl about the same age.** Richardson was found dead before authorities were able to arrest him. The child pornography was reportedly found on Richardson's church computer just days before he killed himself.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/childrens-pastor-decorated-detective-commits-suicide-after-child-porn-found-on-church-computer.html>

Access to porn is increasingly easy due to the internet and wide variety of formats now available, such as printed materials, DVDs, television, I-phones, and more. **HERE IS ALARMING DATA:**

- 1.** Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. The average visit lasts 6 minutes and 29 seconds
- 2.** There are around 42 million porn websites, which totals around 370 million pages of porn. The porn industry's annual revenue is more than the NFL, NBA and MLB combined. It is also more than the combined revenues of ABC, CBS and NBC.
- 3.** 47 percent of families in the U. S. reported that PORN is a problem in their home. **PORN use increases INFIDELITY by more than 300%!**

- 4. Eleven [11] is the average age that a child** is first exposed to porn, and 94 percent of children will see porn by the age of 14.
- 5.** 56 percent of American divorces involve one party having an "obsessive interest" in pornographic websites.
- 6.** 70 percent of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.
- 7. 68 percent of church-going men and over 50 percent of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76 percent actively search for porn.**
- 8.** 59 percent of pastors said that married men seek their help for porn use.
- 9.** 33 percent of **women** aged 25-and-under search for porn at least once per month.
- 10.** Only 13 percent of self-identified **Christian women** say they never watch porn— 87 percent of **Christian women** have watched porn.
- 11.** 55 percent of married men and 25 percent of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.
- 12.** 57 percent of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. And 69 percent say porn has adversely impacted the church.
- 13.** Only 7 percent of pastors say their church has a program to help people struggling with pornography.

BREAKING SIN'S POWER by Counting the Cost!

[The following is edited from *Deterring Immorality by Counting Its Cost: The exorbitant price of sexual sin!* by Randy Alcorn]... **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. **GOD tells us:** We are not our own! **We are bought with a price!**

(C. H. Spurgeon) **“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.”

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!** (Alan Redpath) “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!”

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!

(W.G. Blaikie) **“His [indwelling] presence is ... like** the sun, which cannot shine **without** brightening the earth and sky... **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].”

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! The context of I Corinthians 6:15-20, is very significant! * 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, for 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!

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— (This ministry is 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, side door...



***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** **Next** meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5, 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/>
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SUNDAY SERVICES, MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL NOTES FOR SUNDAYS:

March 3— NOON, 'Covered-dish' FELLOWSHIP MEAL

March 10— 5:30pm, Faithful Men... New study: 1689 Confession of Faith

March 17— LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of morning worship

5:00pm— HOME GROUPS

March 24— 6:00pm... Church-wide, EQUIPING DISCIPLES...by DEVELOPING CHRIST-HONORING MARRIAGES!

March 32— 6:00pm... 5th Sunday Evening PRAISE & Worship!