



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 18, May 7, 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."

SACRED MARRIAGE— Until Death Causes Parting! [Part 2]

[THE VOW— The Seldom Heard Marriage Truth, by Dan J. Phillips, edited] I've read a number of books on marriage. I've heard a number of the radio "experts," real and supposed. I've heard sermons on marriage. But there's one truth I think I've only seen alluded to in one place... **But this truth leaps out at one from Bible verse after Bible verse. What is it? I'll give you a few hints:**

1. "If a man **vows a vow to the LORD**, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth." (Num. 30:2)
2. "If you make **a vow to the LORD your God**, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth." (Deuteronomy 23:21-23)

3. **"I must perform my vows to you, O God;** I will render thank offerings to you." (Ps. 56:12)
4. **"For you, O God, have heard my vows;** you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name."(Ps. 61:4)
5. "So will I ever sing praises to your name, **as I perform my vows day after day.**" (Ps. 61:8)
6. **"Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them;** let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared." (Ps. 76:11)
7. "It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making **vows.**" (Prov. 20:25)
8. **"It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay."** (Ecc. 5:5)

To that large (but not exhaustive) list, we could add our Lord's words that our "yes" should mean "yes" (Matthew 5:33-37), as well as his half-brother's echoing of that same thought (James 5:12) -- **plus all the verses about not lying. For what is it to swear and not fulfill, but to lie?**

What does this have to do with marriage? Well, marriage is by its nature a vow, an oath, a covenant (Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14). But in addition to that, at least in our culture, we usually take on ourselves oaths, vows, as part of the marriage ceremony.

EXAMPLE:

The husband is asked, "WILT thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?" **He promises,**

before God and everyone, that he will. The wife is asked, "WILT thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?" **She promises, before God and everyone, that she will.**

Note the marriage vows are not premised on the other's keeping his/her vows. In other words, it is not, "If you keep your promise, then I promise that I will...." The promises are unilateral, unconditional, and therefore binding... **till death do us part! All that to this simple observation: KEEP YOUR VOWS!** If you are not doing so, you are sinning, and must repent, find God's forgiveness — and start keeping them. **UPDATE:** I just read of a couple who is about to celebrate **eighty years** of married life. They don't claim to have a "secret" for a successful marriage. But the husband does offer this thought: **"Just remember the promise you made when you got married,"** he says. **Amen!**
 [http://bibchr.blogspot.com/2004/11/least-heard-marriage-truth.html]

Some time back, I RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTION to the above article: "A covenant is always understood to be kept under the premise that the other keeps his or her part of the covenant agreement, otherwise the vow is broken and **if what this minister is saying is true then God would be guilty of breaking His covenant word to us** when He says He will never forsake us **and yet divorced Israel** because of their harlotries which proves the understanding of **a covenant is based on the other not breaking it!!**) Jeremiah 3:8 says this: *"And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce,..."* If divorce is wrong on the innocent

parties part, **then that would make God Wrong for divorcing his people.**

And God is never wrong. **He showed us there is grounds for divorce!** Divorce is allowed when the covenant is broken!"

RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE OBJECTION: At issue here is not only (1) the character of God; (2) the truth about a godly marriage covenant; but also (3) the believer's salvation! **If in fact, God divorced Israel— then, CHRISTIAN: God can divorce you! You might be saved today— but you can sin away salvation and be divorced by God tomorrow! If God's covenants** are based on us not breaking them— then there will be ZERO people in heaven! So, this pastor and many others believe that GOD HIMSELF is a divorcee; and, **therefore, since God has an escape from His promises— we have the same escape from promises we make.**

HOWEVER, IS GOD A DIVORCEE?

Isaiah 50:1- *"Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, **whom I have put away?** or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away."*

Jeremiah 3:8- *"And I saw, when for all the causes whereby **backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.**"*

[Case closed— right? Hmmm... let's see!]

REALITY: WRONG Doctrines are often held because people 'cherry-pick' the Scriptures, neglecting to read the whole

context. Many who are seeking to find ways to justify divorce run to quote Jeremiah 3:8, (quoted above). Jay E. Adams in ***Marriage DIVORCE and Remarriage in the Bible***, quotes Jeremiah 3:8, as he seeks to justify divorce. **Sadly, like so many others, Adams totally ignores the Biblical context and totally ignores the complete Biblical teaching on the subject. THEREFORE, let's quote the surrounding verses of Jer. 3:8—**

Jeremiah 3:1-15 (NKJV) “They say, ‘If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man’s, May he return to her again?’ Would not that land be greatly polluted? **But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me,” says the LORD.**

² “Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain *with men*? By the road you have sat for them Like an Arabian in the wilderness; And you have polluted the land With your harlotries and your wickedness. ³ Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot’s forehead; You refuse to be ashamed. ⁴ Will you not from this time cry to Me, ‘My Father, You *are* the guide of my youth? ⁵ Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end?’ Behold, you have spoken and done evil things, As you were able.”

⁶ The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. ⁷ **And I said, after she had done all these things, ‘Return to Me.’** But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. ⁸ Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, **I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce;** yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the

harlot also. ⁹ So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. ¹⁰ And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,” says the LORD.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to me, “Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹² Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: **‘Return, backsliding Israel,’**

says the LORD;

‘I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I *am* merciful,’ says the LORD; ‘I will not remain angry forever. ¹³ Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,’ says the LORD.

¹⁴ **“Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; “for I am married to you.** I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

MOREOVER, in Hosea, God gives us a visual of GOD’S KIND OF COVENANT KEEPING LOVE through what GOD directed Hosea to do. **Hosea obeyed** God’s command to buy back unfaithful Gomer and to love her! (Hosea 3:1ff) **The prophet Hosea is** a visual of God and his longsuffering, forgiving love! In reality, **GOD DID THE EXACT OPPOSITE from what Jay E. Adams and the objecting pastor claims!** “If we are faithless, He remains faithful— for He cannot deny himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13) (2 Peter 3:9)

MOREOVER, WE READ IN ROMANS 11:1-5: “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God HATH NOT cast away his people which he foreknew...

***Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."* NO, God is not a divorcee! NO, God's covenant with Israel was not DESTROYED by Israel's gross sin.**

In Deuteronomy 4:31, God made a promise never to forsake His people, **"For the LORD thy God is a merciful God; he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He sware unto them."** Thankfully, God's love NEVER FAILS! (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) **DARE ANY OF US CALL GOD A LIAR?** Titus 2:1 declares that God CANNOT lie. We read the same promise again in Hebrews 13:5, **"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** Clearly, God NEVER has and never will forsake His own. God never, in fact, divorced Israel. **God is not a divorcee.**

Isaiah 54: 1 - 17 CONTINUES THE UNVEILING OF THE REAL TRUTH

OF GOD NOT BEING A COVENANT BREAKER! "... 5 For YOUR MAKER IS YOUR HUSBAND, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. 6 For the Lord has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God. **7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. 8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,"** Says the Lord, your Redeemer.

BOTTOM LINES:

1. Do not slander the character of God; nor follow those who do.
2. **Go home and LOVE your husband, your wife! GOD KEEPS HIS VOWS. He empowers His redeemed children to walk in His steps!**
3. **GO HOME AND LOVE YOUR SPOUSE! KEEP YOUR VOWS!**
4. **You / I / we are most definitely called to be redemptive toward offenders**, to invest in them even as God invested in you/ me/us when we were still lost sinners.
5. **Remain in your present marriage and/or as much as possible seek reconciliation; and be a channel for God's unconditional, sacrificial, forgiving love— which He delights to pour out on the unlovable, the undeserving, and the unresponsive.**

Besides, your marriage vow before God was “...till death do us part!”

6. **REPEAT:** Yes, in our sin-filled world, there are times when for sheer safety of life and limb of the wife and children— there may need to be a time of protective separation. **Even so**, all the more is the need for the REDEMPTIVE VISION of Jesus for the sin enslaved!

7. **MOREOVER**, many ‘wars’ in families will fade from or never get to red zones of physical danger if the following Scriptures are heeded: 1 Peter 2:19-21; 3:1-17; Romans 12:14-21.

Great Grace to All! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

***** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

[Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/](#)

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door**.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**.

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, May 14, 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's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am: (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!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES, MAY 12, 19. 26

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL NOTES FOR SUNDAYS:

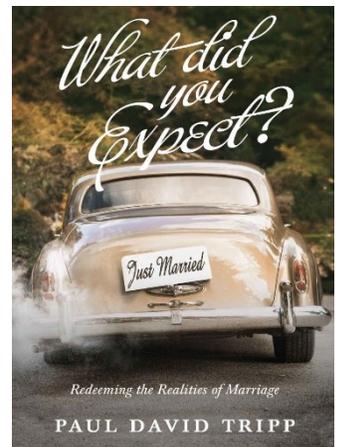
**** MAY 12 — MOTHER'S DAY... WE ENCOURAGE THE GIVING OF GIDEON BIBLES in Appreciation of Mothers and in Memory of Mothers:**

<http://www.sendtheword.org/all-cards.aspx>

***** MAY 19 — LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE at the end of the Morning Worship**

[HOME GROUPS, after services or at 5:00pm]

****** MAY 26 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**



**COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CENTER:
Seeks to Provide Compassion, Hope,
and Help for Pregnant Women!**

SERVICES PROVIDED: free pregnancy test; peer counseling; post-abortion counseling; prenatal education; fetal development education; birthing options; education on infant feeding options; parenting classes; life-skills classes; guidance to other resources; self-help skills; tangible resources such as: *infant clothing; baby furniture; maternity clothes; diapers*

COMMUNITY PREGNACY CENTER

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Open Monday-Wednesday from 10am-5pm

and Thursdays from 2-8 pm

(615) 680-8026

pregnancycenterhartsville.org