

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 27, July 16, 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."

The FIRST CHAPTER of the Biography of Every Human!

In Ephesians, chapter two, the Holy Spirit moves the pen of Paul to **set forth the CONDITION of EVERY HUMAN— until or unless one is CONVERTED TO CHRIST! Read prayerfully:**

“And you hath **He** quickened, [raised from death to life], **who were dead** in trespasses and sins; Wherein **in time past ye walked according to** the course of this world, **according to** the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also WE ALL had our conversation [our way of life] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature** the children of wrath, **even as** others.” (Ephesians 2:1-3)

YES, these verses give us the first chapter of every person as they are born in a fallen world.

UNTIL or UNLESS a person is BORN AGAIN— **SUCH ONES ARE AND REMAIN**, as set forth in Ephesians 2:1-3:

[1] **DEAD** in sin (Physically alive; but spiritually dead in sin);

[2] **dedicated** to the fashions of this world;

[3] **demonized**;

[4] **disobedient**;

[5] **dominated by** cravings of carnal passions; and the **desires** of evil imaginations rule; and

[6] **DOOMED** under the just and holy wrath of God.

But wait— there is more revelation [which goes in the First Chapter of the Biography of every human!]

ALL HUMANS, PRIOR TO SALVATION,

[1] **HATE God-** (Rom. 8:7);

[2] **LOVE darkness-** (John 3:19);

[3] **WILL NOT come to Christ-** (John 5:40)

[4] **CANNOT COME to Jesus unless— John 6:44; John 6:65!**

[This is stunning. John 6:44 and 6:65, are revelations DIRECTLY FROM JESUS SHOWING human inability and the necessity of God's mercy and grace.]

Continuing,

ALL HUMANS, PRIOR TO SALVATION,

[5] **ARE DEAD in sin-** (Eph. 2:1; Col. 3:13); and,

[6] **WILL NOT seek God-** (Rom. 3:10-12)

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR SUCH SINNERS to ever escape all of that and become sons and daughters of God?

HOW?

Continue reading in Ephesians, chapter two, verse four—

"BUT GOD, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith He loved us, **Even when we were dead in sins, hath QUICKENED us** [given us life!] **together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;)

And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4-10)

AND JUST HOW does GOD accomplish this astounding miracle?

The great Triune God accomplishes His saving grace in human hearts by means of the proclaimed GOSPEL which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes; ..." (Rom 1:16)

Thus, "...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: **Which were born,**

not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

“Being **BORN AGAIN**, **not of** corruptible seed, **but of** incorruptible, by the WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth forever.” (1 Peter 1:23)

When the GOSPEL is proclaimed the humanly impossible is commanded! For just as it was humanly impossible for dead and ‘stinking’ Lazarus to come out of the tomb— **the Gospel messenger proclaims the GOSPEL to the spiritually dead and cries out,**

“**Repent**, ye therefore, and **be converted** that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19) ... **OR:** “...**WHOSOEVER believeth** on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)... **OR:** “For **whosoever shall call** upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13)

But WHO is powerful enough to bring a

DEAD-IN-SIN-satan-enslaved-sinner

to repent, to believe, to call upon Jesus?

GOD! “**BUT GOD**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **even when we were** dead in sins, **hath quickened** us [given us life!] **together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;) And **hath raised us up** together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus!

Well, then, since the salvation of the lost is so God focused, God initiated, and God empowered as is set forth in Ephesians 2:1-10— **What about man’s ‘free will?’**

What is the roll of the Lost Person’s Free Will?

A widely accepted belief, which I was taught, **is that God looks down from heaven and He sees and knows, in advance**, who will BELIEVE if they are given ‘a chance’ to hear the Gospel.

God, therefore, chooses to give NEW BIRTH to those He knows will first, (by the power and choice of their free will), choose Him.

In this belief system sinners exercise their free will, choose Christ, **and then** Christ stamps His approval.

PROBLEM: BIBLICAL REALITY IS VERY DIFFERENT! When God looks down from heaven into the hearts of fallen man— DOES THE BIBLE tell us what God sees? **YES, and here is God’s answer, which He states twice:**

“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. **They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**” (Ps. 14:2-3; Ps. 53:2-3 repeats this)

So, when fallen men exercise their free will— God sees it! God’s Word reveals that God only sees ONE GROUP— **“They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”**

THE HISTORY OF FREE WILL:

(1) Adam and Eve, who had been in a state of Innocence, exercised their FREE WILL and mankind was thrown into the bondage of sin.

(2) SINCE THAT TIME as fallen man exercises his FREE WILL (just as Psalm 14:2-3/Psalm 53:2-3 state!) – GOD SAYS that they are

gone aside, become filthy, do not do good, do not seek God... **no not one!**

A DIFFERENT QUESTION:

Have you ever wondered how many sinners will be saved? When Paul preached the GOSPEL to the Gentiles at Antioch, Luke records— “...**and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**” (Acts 13:48)

As Jesus was praying to His Father, He said: “As thou [GOD, the Father], hast given Him [JESUS] power over all flesh, that **He [JESUS] should give eternal life to as many as Thou [God, the Father], hast given Him.**” (John 17:2)

AMAZING GRACE! Christian, you were given by the Father to the Son!

Yes, the Gospel call goes out far and wide to dead-in-their-sin-sinners: “Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST and thou shalt be saved.”

Ultimately, a ‘numberless multitude’ from every tribe and people of all nations will be saved, (Rev. 7:9-17)

They will all be with Jesus for eternity because in God’s amazing grace, **they were given by the Father to the Son!**

CHRISTIAN, you were given by the Father to the Son! (John 17:1-24) [The sheep belonging to Jesus were given to Jesus by His Father: John 10:27-30]

IN CONTRAST,

the Bible also clearly teaches us: Those who are ultimately cast into hell **will be there ONLY because of their sin!** — (Rev. 14:7-11; 21:8; John 3:36)

***** God DOES NOT predestinate sinners to hell.**

***** NO ONE** will be in hell because they were not chosen for heaven!

***** Sinners will only be in hell**

ONLY because of their sin: Romans 1:18-20; Rev. 21:8.

***** BECAUSE OF SIN, the whole human race** is already, (Eph. 2:3), under the RIGHTEOUS wrath of God!

SINNERS DO NOT GET CHOSEN or predestined for that which they have already JUSTLY EARNED!

The great wonder is not that there will be people in hell— for all who enter this fallen world are dead in sin, dedicated to the fashions of this world, demonized, disobedient, dominated by carnal passions, desires prompted evil imaginations rule; and they are ALREADY under the wrath of Holy God. (Eph. 2:1-3)

The wrath of God is right now ABIDING upon those who are not believing in Jesus. (John 3:36) Christian, they are as you once were— Ephesians 2:1-3!

MOREOVER, as the HUMAN RACE nears the end of time, God will begin to intervene with 'controlled judgment and wrath'... — however, masses of mankind WILL NOT repent: Rev. 9:20-21; Rev. 16:8-11. [Once again, man's FREE WILL is on display, and it is NOT PRETTY!]

THEREFORE, the time will come when the full wrath of God will be poured out upon the unrepentant, in the presence of the LAMB OF GOD, forever and ever! (Rev. 14:8-11)

Moreover, the angels of God will worship God for giving out true and righteous JUSTICE!

Passing out justice is no mark against the holy character of God! (Rev. 16:5-7)

Justice is what the entire fallen human race deserves, even as was done for the fallen angels. And for such justice, God is worthy of worship: Rev. 16:5-7; Rev. 19:1-4.

BUT WONDER of WONDERS, instead of deserved justice — undeserved MERCY and GRACE is given to a numberless multitude of humans. These multitudes are no less sinners and no less justice deserving than anyone else!

EVEN SO, in God's 'good pleasure' (Eph. 1:4-11), they are given, by the Father (John 17:2), to the Son!

We should be in utter awe at the love, mercy, and grace of God!

MOREOVER, God's free grace EMPOWERS prayers, gospel preaching, and missionary work.

As laborers together with God for the souls of men, Christians 'plant and water' and GOD gives the increase! (1 Cor. 3:6-7)

We are commissioned/commanded to take the gospel to the whole world. Such labors are fruitful because of the GIVING of the Father to the Son: John 17!

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 WILL BE ON JULY 23, 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, JULY 21, 28

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

***** JULY 21 — LORD’S SUPPER, at the end of the Morning
Worship /// HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm**

**JULY 28 — 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)**

