

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 33, August 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.***

WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS — Part 1

(Edited from ***WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS***, by Stephen Brown)

You may have heard of the fellow to whom his Doctor said, "I have good news and I have bad news!" The man said he wanted the good news first. **So the doctor said:** "The good news is, you only have 24 hours to live. The bad news is that I was supposed to tell you yesterday!"

Bad news, troubles, trials, and tribulations— (depending upon our response to these 'BROKEN ROPES') we will either become bitter or better. "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy Statutes." (Psalm 119:67, 71) God's grace will lead us in those responses!

I. THE BAD NEWS. Job 3:23-26

All is not right with the world. Long before we were born something bad happened called the Fall, and today we are dealing with the repercussions.

If you are in the middle of ‘Broken Ropes’ or ‘Broken Rope Syndrome’ (BRS), you can’t afford to close your eyes and pretend that everything is fine. **FACE IT— there are inevitable storms in a fallen world.**

*** **Because of the Fall**, the whole creation groans in the aftermath of sin’s continuing consequences. (Gen. 3:17b-19; Romans 8:20-22) Living in a fallen world, you are going to have to live with the implications of a fallen world. That means that you have to face the fact of natural disasters! And instead of being angry at God— Be angry at sin!

*** **Sin is a part of a fallen world.** (Jer. 17:9) You must face the fact that, because of your sin nature, you aren’t perfect. Your own sin will cause you all kinds of trouble. The sin of others will also bring about ‘Broken Ropes’. Moreover, there are times when bad stuff ‘JUST’ happens (**Luke 13:1-5**) and the MESSAGE and command of Jesus, shockingly, is just— **“REPENT or PERISH!”**

*** **The Sting of death.** (Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:56) Have you ever had someone tell you not to worry about death, because it was as natural as birth and just a part of life? **They lied to you!** Death is not natural. We were not born to die. Disease, all manner of suffering and death are the result of sin, fallout from the Fall!

II. IT’S NOT YOUR PARTY!

The good news is you have been invited to a party. The bad news is that it isn’t your party! But once you understand the One for whom the party is given, all things considered, it isn’t such a bad party after all!

*** **Understanding the way the world works.** (Job 38-41) **God**

is working His plan, not ours. Our fallen nature is egocentric. That's another way of saying that most of us, in our heart of hearts, believe that the world revolves around us. The Bible teaches that the world was not created for us; it was created by and for God. (Isa. 40:25; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1; Rev. 4:11) God has created the world for His reasons and not for ours. Believe it or not, that is **very good news!**

***** Gaining perspective on the rope**— Breaking ropes, as horrible as they can be, may be seen from another perspective. When 'our rope breaks' and some difficulty or tragedy follows— we naturally feel that something is out of control. But that may not be the case. Breaking ropes are not necessarily the major concern of God. He may have other priorities.

Thus, I need a right foundational attitude about Broken Ropes:

***** 'This isn't really happening.'**— You can choose to believe that the world is a playground created by God for your enjoyment and pleasure. With this belief, you will see your broken rope as an unwelcome interruption, or pretend that the broken rope really isn't broken.

***** 'All is vanity.'**— When your rope has broken, you can choose to believe that the world is essentially meaningless. "Life is hard and then you die."

***** 'God is everything!'**— **This response gives foundational meaning to breaking ropes.** God, as revealed in the Bible, is the Creator who, for His own reasons, created the world and is doing all of His good pleasure and purpose. That is the Biblical option, and while that may not seem like altogether great news, it, at least, brings genuine meaning into the equation. The Bible

teaches that God created the world that He might be glorified. Yes, because of man's sin, we live in a fallen world! But, still, everything was created that God might be glorified. If you understand these two facts, breaking ropes will still hurt, but you will find the meaning in them— **For Life is about the King of Kings and the LORD OF LORDS!**

It is not about His servants, or His lands, or His subjects. **It is only about the King. In the midst of breaking ropes, Almighty God reigns!** And He loves sinners!

III. THE VERY, VERY GOOD NEWS

***** God loves sinners! SPECIFICALLY, God has special love for His redeemed children.** (Rom. 9:14-16; I John 3:1; I John 4:10) **What does His love mean?** Agape means to love the unlovely, to be benevolent and filled with good will, no matter what the response of the loved one. "But God proved His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8)

***** Your broken rope has purpose**— Because God loves you, your broken rope has purpose. Sometimes we are missing the one thing we would like to know— NAMELY, what does God want to accomplish through our suffering? True, sometimes we're allowed to see some reason for our pain and/or suffering. But there are other times when we simply have to trust that God loves us and that He knows what He's doing. (John 13:7)

***** CHRISTIAN: You will make it through.** Because God loves you, your broken rope will not ultimately destroy you. **You can stand any tough times if you know they are only temporary. If you know that the suffering will end, you can get through it.**

God promises that one day ‘tears’ will be ‘former’ things! His love, proven at Calvary, assures that “bottom-line” fact. You may have green pastures, still waters, enemies, death, or more— **BUT the Good Shepherd will never leave you and He will get you home! (Psalm 23)**

You are not alone. (John 14:16-18)

***** You are becoming like Christ.** (2 Cor. 4:8-11; I Peter 4:12-13a; John 15:18-20) When your rope breaks it is never pleasant, but at that point you can begin to understand in a deeper way the sacrifice and suffering of Christ. Don’t underestimate that gift. (Phil. 3:8, 10)

***** Your broken rope is redemptive.** (Col. 1:24; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:23-28) When your rope breaks, you can use it in a redemptive way. There is powerful witness you can give when your rope breaks. God does not waste suffering, He does not discipline for no good reason. If He plows, it is because He purposes a crop. Suffering can also be redemptive to the one who suffers. Suffering purifies us. “Don’t waste your sorrows!” **FURTHER REALITY:** Too much of our Christian life is ego-oriented! There is a lot of ego that needs God’s refining fire. (I Cor. 3:11-15)

***** You have a fellow sufferer, JESUS CHRIST!** (Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:21)

IV. HOW TO TIE A KNOT— what to do when your rope breaks!

The means of grace: The means of grace is the formal theological term for the ways God enables us to persevere in our salvation.

Here are some ‘means’ of grace:

***** Honest prayer: Telling God the truth.** Honest prayer can really help when your rope has broken. (Ps. 69:1-3) If you are angry and hurt, don't tell God that you love Him. He knows you are lying. Don't tell Him that you know He is doing whatever He is doing. Tell Him the truth. He is maybe the only Being in the world Who can absorb everything you hand out, understand why you do it, and still love you!

***** And after you tell Him the truth— PRAISE HIM ANYWAY!**
He is worthy!

This open secret is revealed again and again in the Psalms. (Example: Psalm 13)

***** Honest fellowship: Being real with each other.** (Gal. 6:2)
A Christian facing surgery: "Are you kidding? Of course I'm frightened," she exclaimed. "I'm scared to death. People die in this place!" A Brother: "Guys, I want you to know that my business is falling apart and I'm scared." Another confessed, "I am losing battles in my thoughts... looked at porn last week..." We can only bear one another's burdens from a position of genuine reality!

***** Honest Bible study: Reading beyond the "Spiritual".** In this kind of world – the world where it is common practice to lie— It's wonderful to go someplace where I know I'll hear the truth. That place is Scripture.

The Bible presents great men and women of God doing very ungodly things.

The more I read, the more I realized that God wanted us to see real people trying to deal with broken ropes.

The Bible not only portrays the lives of people who, like us, dealt with broken ropes but also it shows us the best way to deal with broken ropes. **(Article to be continued)**

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**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

*** **LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[DOUBLE Doors, under AWNING, 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... **DOUBLE DOORS**, under the drive-thru awning. **[DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!]**

SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

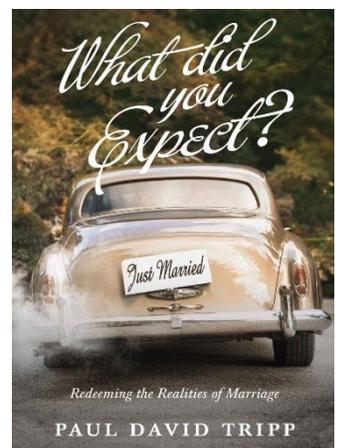
*** September 1 — NOON Covered Dish Fellowship Meal**

**** September 8 — FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30PM... (1689 Confession of Faith)**

***** September 15 — LORD'S SUPPER, at the end of the Morning Worship**

HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm

****** SEPTEMBER 22 — 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)**



******* September 29 — SPECIAL EVENT — AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE @ 6PM... in the Church auditorium. [Let Bradley and/or Adam know... if you would like to sing... or share a Scripture!**