

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 36, September 17, 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 IV

Edited from *When Your Rope Breaks*, by Steve Brown (4th and last part) // **'Broken Ropes' or 'Broken Rope Syndrome'— terms used to TAG those exceedingly TOUGH times which RUSH IN on us uninvited! What 'happens to us' is not nearly as important as is OUR RESPONSE!!**

PRINCIPALITIES, POWERS, AND RULERS OF THE DARK

(Ephesians 6:10-18) **Could it be. . . Satan?** (Job 1:9-12; Job 2:3-7)

Five important facts about 'broken ropes' as they apply to satan and demonic forces

***** Satan is Alive, Angry, and a LIAR!**

The first thing you ought to notice about satan is that he is alive and angry. (Revelation 12:12-17) **The Bible exposes satan as the liar, the accuser, the dragon, the serpent, and the ruler of the world.** Jesus saw the unbelief of many religious people as the result of satan's work: (John 8:43-44) There may be NO DEADLIER BONDAGE than that of lies and deception— **TO LIE IS TO HUG THE DEVIL!** Satan sought to sift Peter as wheat: (Luke 22:31-32) A discussion of broken ropes without a discussion of satan would

be like discussing World War II without discussing Adolph Hitler!

*** **Satan is Under God's Control!**

Second, not only do we learn from Job that satan is **alive and angry**, but we also learn that **satan is controlled**. Satan, though alive and angry, is an enemy who is 100% under God's almighty sovereignty. (Job 1:7-12; 2:2-6; Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:10). **Note:** It is common to say, that satan is 'alive and well'— But, folks, he ain't WELL! **But he sure is alive, evil and ANGRY!** (Revelation 12)

IMPORTANT NOTE: we must be careful not to give satan credit for too many broken ropes. He already gets more credit than he deserves. If satan has anything to do with your broken rope, he has done only what a sovereign God has either allowed/ordained. **Job was right in his worship of God to give satan no credit!** (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10) (FYI: I normally refuse to capitalize the words, 'satan' or the 'devil'... English may demand that 'proper names and titles' be capitalized— but this rascal ain't proper!)

*** **The Student of God!**

Third, satan is learning. (Job 1:8; Job 2:3) What does that mean? I don't know. But whatever it means, the Scriptures indicate that we are being viewed by supernatural beings and that we might increase their knowledge and praise of God. (Ephesians 3:8-10)

Alfred Martin wrote that verse 10 gives "further indication that heavenly beings are observing the Church and seeing in the Church the unfolding of God's wisdom. Both good and evil angels are evidently amazed at the working of God as seen in redeemed men and women!" **WELL, OK, If God wants to use my broken rope as a model to Satan of the sufficiency of God's grace,**

I don't like it, but I will accept it! LET IT BE SO, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

GLORIOUS REALITY: God is interested in showing an unbelieving world the difference in the way Christians deal with suffering and hurt and fear. If He is interested in showing the same thing to satan, I'm glad to be a part of His education plan.

***** THE BOOK OF JOB:**

We can see **that satan's idea is that God is worshiped by humans only because God blesses them with good things!** Take away the blessings and health, then humans will see God as one worthy only to be cursed.

JOB DISPLAYED TO THE WATCHING WORLD in both the earthly realm and in the spirit realm that so far as he was concerned, **GOD WAS WORTHY OF WORSHIP!** **Job's wife** believed and confessed satan's lie. **BROKEN ROPES give us a grand opportunity to expose satan as the liar that he is by giving God the worship He deserves!**

***** A Defeated Foe!**

Fourth, not only is satan alive, angry, controlled, and learning; but satan is also, (for all intents and purposes), defeated. (Col. 2:15) Satan is DOOMED, he knows it... He acts as if he doesn't know it. But he knows it! (Revelation 12)

***** A Silent Enemy!**

Finally, from the book of Job we learn that satan is sometimes not recognized. Although I don't believe we should start looking for satan under every bed and behind every corner, I do believe that we ought to be aware of his presence and alert to his activity! (1

Peter 5:8-9)

SO, how do you handle this enemy? If satan is involved in my broken rope, what can I do about it?

***** Learn to Use the truth!**

(Ephesians 6:14; 6:17) **IF in the midst of** Broken Ropes, you feel that God has deserted you, affirm the truth of His love for you. (Revelation 1:5) **IF you think** that you will be destroyed, affirm the truth that God has given you eternal life in His Son. **IF you start** believing that God is punishing you— affirm that He loves and chastens His children— He does not punish them. (Hebrews 12:5-11) **DEFEAT EVERY** fiery dart of **the wicked one** by grace provided armor! (Ephesians 6:10-18)

***** Make prayer your Hidden Resource!**

God's hand is not shortened that He cannot save you (Isaiah 59:1; Ephesians 6:18))

***** Submit to God in Everything!**

The other part of James's instruction for our dealings with satan is submission to God. (James 4:7) **Satan has incredible public relations. He is blamed for everything from dry cows to cancer. But he isn't as powerful as his public releases would suggest.** Only God has the kind of power satan claims. **REMEMBER: GOD IS AT WORK! LOVE HIM and experience the good He is working!** (Romans 8:28)

DOES MY FATHER KNOW I'M HURTING? (This portion is a repeat of the last point in Part 3... **It is repeated here for emphasis as we conclude this 4 part series.**)

***** The Father knows—** He allows/brings broken ropes because of His love. **The place broken ropes—** it is not a pleasant place to visit, but everyone must go there at one time or another. The place of broken ropes will not always exist. It is only temporary, created by God's love.

***** Meeting God in the silence—** It is hard to bear the silence of God; but in that place, and sometimes only in that place, you meet God. (Job 42:2-3, 5) After the silence, you will meet Him. And to meet God **sometimes** (if we were wiser) always **makes your visit to the place of broken ropes** worth all the pain and suffering and hurt.

***** The Wounded Healer—** when you meet God at the place of broken ropes, you will notice something else you didn't expect. You will notice **nail scars in His hands!** You will know that the reason He speaks with authority is because the place of broken ropes is His place too. (I Peter 4:1; Heb. 5:8; Heb. 4:15)

Thus, it is in the places and paths of 'broken ropes' that God accomplishes His greatest work!

***** GOT BROKEN ROPES? — GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING!**
(Acts 2:22-23; Ps. 105:17-22)

Broken Ropes Have a Way of Revealing REALITY!

A broken rope will make you sensitive to others who have broken ropes. (I Peter 5:9)

Also, most people first arriving at the place of broken ropes congregate with others who have recently arrived.

Gradually, two groups begin to emerge. (Luke 6:47-49)

In the place of broken ropes you will either be drawn to God;
OR you will walk farther and farther from Him.

THE BROKEN ROPES DON'T CAUSE EITHER!

As in Jesus' parable, you will find whether your house is built on rock or on sand. **BROKEN ROPES REVEAL THE TRUE CONDITION OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.** RESPONSESS to broken ropes reveal separation between the group drawn to God and the group walking away.

When the storms of life are raging, all those who flee to Christ for refuge will go forth knowing, **"THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM"** (Hebrews 11:16).

**Grace to all in Christ! / James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org**

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

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

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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 OCTOBER 1, 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!**]

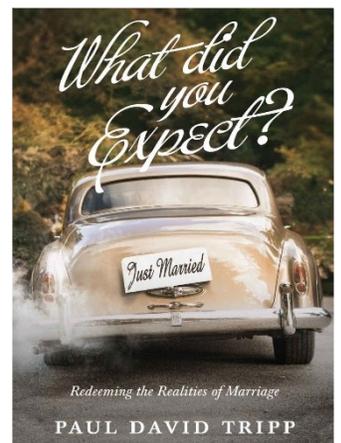
SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 22, 29

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

****** 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!

THEME: "I LOVE YOU, LORD... BECAUSE YOU FIRST LOVED ME!"



