

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 39, October 8, 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.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY'S CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE!

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP has been accurately defined * AS THE** overflow of a grateful heart to God for His greatness and goodness; *** **AS THE** occupation of the heart— not with needs or blessings, but with **GOD HIMSELF**; *** **AS THE UPRISING** of a **HEART THAT KNOWS— (1) God the Father** as the Great Giver; **(2) God the Son** as the Great Shepherd; and **(3) God the Holy Spirit** as the Indwelling resident in and President over our daily lives. *** **WORSHIP is** adoring contemplation of God Himself, as He has revealed Himself in Christ and in the Word of God. The English word "Worship" means Worth-Ship— the emphasis is on the worthiness of the one worshiped. In other words— **Praise and Obedience** are given to God because of **WHO HE IS** and because of His great acts of Creation and Redemption. **THEREFORE, at Southside:**

WE WILL NOT make any effort to 'pump you up' into any sort of man-made religious frenzy and call it worship. **Corporate Worship is AN APPOINTMENT with the Living God! God is the focus, not man.** Corporate worship means that we gather as a church family **to ascribe** worth to God, **to prostrate** ourselves before God in submission to His Word, **to offer unto Him** honor, praise, adoration, the first fruit, tithes, offerings, and **to recognize and rejoice in** God's glory, greatness, power, victory, majesty, and rule! O COME! LET US WORSHIP! HE IS WORTHY!

I. BIBLICAL Guidance for Biblical Worship

First Commandment: Exodus 20:3— the exclusive object of our worship must be the one, the true and the living, triune God himself. **No room is allowed for** idols, saints, angels, the Virgin Mary, nor any object, nor any other being in all the universe.

Second Commandment: Exodus 20:4-6— the manner of true worship must be spiritual and not physical. We are strictly forbidden to attempt to worship God by means of visual representations. Thus, all attempts to visually portray Father, Son, or Holy Spirit are off base. Moreover, all such endeavors obscure God's glory. (Isaiah 40:18)

Third Commandment: Exodus 20:7— the specific attitude for true worship is that of reverence for God and, thus, reverence for God's Name. **Note: Not only should we not 'ask' God to damn something or someone— saying, writing 'OMG' is likewise VILE disrespect for God!**

Fourth Commandment: Exodus 20:8-11— certainly all of our time is to be used in such a way as to glorify God. Nevertheless, the principles of Scripture call for the specific setting aside of one day in seven for rest, good deeds, and for corporate worship. (Isaiah 58:13-14; Hebrews 10:23-25)
Vital love relationships require vital time!

II. The Nature of New Covenant Worship: John 4:19-21

True Christian Worship Must be in Spirit: It is not outward ceremony, or pumped up emotions from special lights, high energy music, and/or gyrations. **Rather, worship in spirit must be in accord with the Holy Spirit,** aided by the Holy Spirit, and a manifestation of sincerity in hearts which are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. **Moreover** the Holy Spirit is the **HOLY Spirit!** He is the Spirit of **TRUTH!** His master passion is to **Exalt Jesus!** (Matt. 15:18; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) **Thus, Worship that is "In the Spirit" will promote Holiness, be loyal to Truth, and will exalt Jesus! THUS:** The question is never about *"I like... or I don't like... or I don't agree."* **It is ONLY ABOUT— IS THIS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD?**

III. Biblical EXPRESSIONS in the Corporate Worship of God!

1. During a Worship Service it is a good thing for the congregation to freely and expressively say, "**AMEN!**" **By this we are saying "Yes!" to God! "So be it LORD!"** *** *Nehemiah 8:6*— "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, **and all the people** answered, **AMEN, AMEN...**" *** *Psalms 106:48*— "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and **let all the people** say, **AMEN, PRAISE YE THE LORD!**" *** *Revelation 7:9-12*— All those in heaven are worshipping God and saying, "**AMEN!** Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, BE UNTO OUR GOD forever and ever. **AMEN!**"

The IMPORTANCE of preaching/teaching the Word of God. In Nehemiah 8 we find the people demanding that Ezra the scribe **bring the Book of the Law** to the assembly. Ezra and his colleagues stand on a raised platform and **read from the Book**. When he opens the Book to read, the assembly rises to its feet in honor of the Word of God and their response to the reading is to answer, "**Amen, Amen!**"

Interestingly, the text explains that Ezra and those assisting him "read from the Book, from the Law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading" (Neh. 8:8). **Once the text was read, it was carefully explained to the congregation.** Ezra did not stage an event or orchestrate a spectacle— he simply and carefully proclaimed the word of God. This text is a sobering indictment of much contemporary Christianity. **According to the text, a demand for biblical preaching erupted within the hearts of the people.** They gathered as a congregation and summoned the preacher. This reflects an intense hunger and thirst for the preaching of the Word of God.

QUESTION: *WILL YOU and I ARRIVE at worship services this coming LORD'S DAY with that same sort of desire?*

2. During a Worship Service it is a good thing for the congregation to freely and expressively SING and/or SAY PRAISE! *** *Psalms 95:1*— "O come, let US **sing** unto the LORD. **Let US** make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." *** *Ephesians 5:19*— "**Speaking to YOURSELVES** in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the LORD!"

3. During a Worship Service it is a good thing, at times, for a congregation to stand, and/or to kneel, and/or to bow, etc. Various physical postures may convey gratitude, reverence, submission, humility, and/or dependence, etc. **It is true that mere physical actions can become mechanical and/or hypocritical.** Indeed, we must come to God in worship with right heart attitudes. Among those right attitudes is a submissive, godly embracing of Biblical expressions in worship, such as these ones of which we are speaking. *** **The fact that there are** those who 'get in the flesh' and just put on a show, rather than truly worship God— **THESE NEGATIVE REALITIES DO NOT GIVE US LIBERTY TO IGNORE OR REJECT BIBLICAL PATTERNS!**

4. During a Worship Service it is a good thing for our hearts and hands to blend in worship to God. "Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, **as I lift MY HANDS** toward your most holy place." (Psalm 28:2) "The LORD is my strength and my shield; My HEART trusteth in Him, and I am helped. MY HEART leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song." (Psalm 28:7)

*** **EXTENDED HANDS** reveal the worshipper in a posture of faith, looking to God for mercy and grace. (Psalm 88:9b) *** **LIFTED UP HANDS** are also in the context of praise to God for his greatness. "Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD... **LIFT UP YOUR HANDS** in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD!" (Psalm 134:1-2) "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, **AMEN, AMEN, with LIFTING UP THEIR HANDS**, and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground." (Neh. 8:6)

God inspired Paul to write: "I will therefore that men **PRAY everywhere, LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS**, without wrath and doubting." (1 Tim 2:8)

The focus of true worship is all on God! It's all focused on God's Word which points us in the paths of being **RIGHT WITH GOD**.

And, prominent throughout Scripture is the worship response of AMEN! ... that is, "So be it LORD!"

The book of Acts gives us a clear worship scene from the New Testament Church: **Acts 2** (Emphasis is added) ⁴¹ "Then they that **gladly** received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about

three thousand souls. ⁴² **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... Praising God,** and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” **Here we see that true New Testament worship is, again, all about God and His agenda!**

NOTE: There was/is no need to seek to motivate by appealing to the carnal flesh. **For with new hearts,** new Christians have an awesome **indwelling compelling** for sitting at the feet of Jesus in the Word of God! They are drawn to fellowship with other believers, and drawn to worship at the LORD'S TABLE, and drawn to prayer with other saints, and drawn to ministries of doing good one to another. In other words, they are led by the Holy Spirit! (Romans 8:14)

ONE OF THE WORSHIP scenes from the Revelation. Revelation 19 (Emphasis is added) ¹ “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God:** ² For true and righteous are his judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”**

IV. What IS Clear from all these Various Scriptures?

(1) WE SEE the total **GOD FOCUS** of true, Holy Spirit led worship. **Therefore, the preaching of the Holy Spirit breathed out Word of God is prominent!** **(2) WE SEE** the emotion, intensity, and VERBAL nature of true, Holy Spirit led worship; Plus, Various POSTURES are used in true worship— Kneeling, Standing, Bowing, and the LIFTING UP OF HANDS. **(3) WE SEE THAT** in Holy Spirit led worship, WORDS of praise RESPONSES are predominant— **AMEN! HALLEUJAH! SO LET IT BE!**

V. BECAUSE THE WORSHIP OF GOD and the CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES ARE SO VITALLY IMPORTANT... here are some SPECIFIC PRACTICES OF A SPECIAL FAMILY:

*** **THREE DAYS Prior to the LORD'S DAY** — in the midst of their world of family, school, work, and etc — there are **three days** of prayerful planning, ministry, and **anticipation** leading up to and contributing mightily to making each LORD'S DAY special. **They have a passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL!** Why? Because the LORD'S DAY is a special day to DELIGHT IN GOD. (Isaiah 58:13-14) It is a special day for worship, for ministry, for rest. There is no carnal legalism here. They just recognize that **precious relationships and priority ministry require specific and precious time. Honestly, why would any Christian not place supreme priority on Delighting in God?**

Our **Christian family told us** that **in view of the great mercies of God**, holding the LORD'S DAY sacred for God is not at all duty but rather it is a grand delight! (**Isaiah 58:13-14**) There is no strain required in order **to refrain from** their own ways, their own pleasures or their own ideas as to how each LORD'S DAY will be spent. In the light of the MERCIES of God, their passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL is but reasonable worship and service! (**Rom. 12:1-2**) ***Moreover, they are not ashamed to humbly inform family and friends, that as for their household— Sundays uniquely belong to the LORD.***

*** **The three days following the LORD'S DAY are days of reflection upon and responses** to the special presence of God revealed in the assembly of the saints on the LORD'S DAY. On the LORD'S DAY: a. Congregational praise and worship were offered to God, b. Fellowship and ministry took place in the midst of the congregation, c. The Word of God was readily received; and now... following the LORD'S DAY, **d. They seek to invade their world with the gospel!**

**** In other words, for our **Christian family**, these are days of loving obedience to the revelations received the previous LORD'S DAY. This is their common, sacred weekly rhythm!

THIS SACRED, WEEKLY RHYTHM EXPLAINS THEIR SATURDAY CHOICES!

On a recent Saturday, we found them in some of their LORD'S DAY PREPARATIONS. It was obvious that for them there were **no late Saturday nights out partying, playing, movies, going to games or malls or a thousand other allurements!** Instead, on Saturday Evenings our **Christian family is typically involved in the following:** a. Sunday School lessons are studied; b. Last minute checks are made on those to whom the Gospel was planted during the week; c. Prayers are lifted up for the LORD'S blessing on all the LORD'S DAY services; **d. Clock alarms are set early enough so that on the LORD'S DAY morning they will not be rushed. In other words, they are functioning like a missionary family on a mission field!**

REALITY: Sometimes there are special Saturday family activities, but regardless they MAKE SURE to be in bed early enough so as to be fully rested and refreshed for a GRAND LORD'S DAY OF DELIGHTING IN GOD! Obviously, all of the above activities give our **Christian family** plenty of sound reasons to pray for God to give increase on the LORD'S DAY! We also learned that their family and individual prayers were usually **in addition to** the prayers they prayed with other saints at the Church-wide Wednesday Prayer Service.

SUNDAY, the LORD'S DAY, with our Christian Family! They live a few miles from the Southside church building; nevertheless, because they purposely go to bed early on Saturday evenings— ******* Sunday mornings find them rested, up early with plenty of time for family devotions, breakfast, some family time, necessary chores, and even plenty of time to arrive early for Sunday School! ******* It is clear that **our Christian family is excited about being in place early** so as to welcome those they have invited to come this Sunday; and/or to briefly meet with those with whom they are in accountability; and/or to spend a few moments with those they are discipling! ******* Soon after arrival at the church building we find our **Christian family** helping visitors or newcomers find all the right places... ******* and helping visitors/newcomers to be introduced to others and to have someone to sit with during the worship hour, etc. ******* **Between Sunday School and Worship services and after the Worship services they continued ministering.** We also discovered that it is common for our **Christian family**

to have their **eyes open for ministry** opportunities during the Fellowship Meal.

****** Furthermore, they made a point to say that it would take something really serious to keep them from the LORD'S SUPPER times.**

*Interestingly, our **Christian family testified** that they never have discussions as to whether or not they will be faithful to attend and participate in the Southside LORD'S DAY services. **It's a given. It is preeminent priority.***

*As one might expect, our **Christian family** commonly use LORD'S DAY afternoons for rest and/or for family and/or ministry.*

MONDAY through SATURDAY with our Christian Family! As already reported, our **Christian family** purposely divides each week into three days of REFLECTION/application; and three days of ANTICIPATION. **But we dare not forget!** They have chores, duties, jobs, School, Homework, stresses, trials like every other family. **However, their focus and passion in life is GOD AND HIS KINGDOM.**

a. Thus, in their neighborhood, at school, at work— they seek to live holy, to love, to bless, and to do good to all men and especially to other Christians. **b. They seek** to build bridges of love. **c. They seek** to establish TOUCH POINTS... so that they can build caring relationships... ultimately so that they may share the gospel. **WHY?**

BECAUSE they look upon Themselves as Missionaries who are No Different From a Missionary Serving in the Deepest Jungle. They purpose to be excellent employees and/or students and neighbors. At times they participate in various community, civic, sports and/or cultural events. Why? There are a number of reasons. **But chief among them is that these all provide opportunities/settings to make Christ visible out in the midst of their mission field.**

One More Significant Reality in our Christian Family! They are committed to guarding the unity of the Holy Spirit at Southside. **Thus, they have purposely bound themselves:**

a. We will not listen to or inquire of any evil or negative reports of others in the Body. b. If we hear an evil report, we will not believe it. c. If we hear an evil report, we will go directly and ASAP to the person about whom the evil report was given, humbly inform them, seeking truth and healing. d. If we hear of an evil report and we see no reason to go directly to the person about whom the report was given, we will in no wise speak the evil report to anyone else. e. We will seek to practice 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

Grace to all in Christ! James

****** 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 15, 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, OCTOBER 13, 20, 27

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

**** October 13 — FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30PM... (1689 Confession
 of Faith)**

***** October 20 — LORD'S SUPPER, at the end of the
 Morning Worship**

HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm

****** October 27 — 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)**

