

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 41, October 22, 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.***

## **Part 2— TAKING A SERIOUS LOOK AT THE LOCAL CHURCH!**

After our Wednesday Evening Prayer service, I spent some time late last evening, looking at the VERY ATTRACTIVE website of a Mega-Church. There is NOTHING WRONG with a church having a fine website and/or with taking advantage of high-tech tools in presenting their message. **BUT WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE of the website?**

The lead pastor looked straight into the camera and proclaimed indiscriminately to any and all— GOD LOVES YOU! (This was in an UNDER 2 MINUTE 'advertisement piece for the church... and this was THE message of the clip. COULD ANYTHING possibly be wrong with that message?)

**And when I listened to his sermon dealing with homosexuality,** it was clear to me that, for him, while being a practicing adulterer or homosexual would hinder one's relationship with God... you could still be a genuine Christian. (MULTITUDES

AGREE!) **However, the Word of God DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS POSITION!**

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup>“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. **Neither** fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor** homosexuals, **nor** sodomites,

<sup>10</sup> **nor** thieves, **nor** covetous, **nor** drunkards, **nor** revilers, **nor** extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

**SADLY, this very sincere sounding pastor... cherry-picked the Word of God. Blind to his double-mindedness—** on the one hand he tried to strike a fine cord for the need to follow the Word of God and not culture; but on the other hand, (by his own admission he did not want to offend anyone!); thus, he left the door open for practicing sinners to still get to heaven.

He struck a different note than the RIGHTEOUSNESS PREACHING of Noah. He struck a different note than Peter on the day of Pentecost, who confronted the crowd with their sin.

**He struck a different note than JESUS to Nicodemus!**

Yes, Jesus told Nicodemus that ‘GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE...’— WHY? Because Nicodemus, needed to know that the salvation of God extends far beyond Jews, all the way to a numberless multitude out of every tribe of the world!)

**HOWEVER, THERE IS NO RECORD OF JESUS ever addressing a crowd with, ‘GOD LOVES YOU!’** Jesus did not speak in such terms, even to the Woman at the Well! (That may be shocking to you... but read your Bibles!!)

JESUS loved the woman at the well by confronting her with her sin! AGAIN and AGAIN, Jesus warns that many, (especially the religious), were on the BROAD WAY that leads to destruction!

**REMEMBER:** The vast majority of Americans believe that they are basically good; and that they will make it to heaven... **SO TO THAT VAST AUDIENCE— the message of God is “GOD LOVES YOU!???” NO!** JESUS WARNED that the last days would be like the days of Noah... with the multitudes blind to the coming wrath of God!

**STUNNINGLY, JESUS WARNS** THAT MANY ‘pastors’ have rejected the ‘STRAIT GATE’ and the ‘NARROW WAY’... AND ARE ON THE BROAD WAY TO DESTRUCTION! (Matthew 7:13-23)

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, of the last century, gives a much needed warning: **“The false prophet is a man who has no ‘strait gate’ or ‘narrow way’ in his gospel. He has nothing which is offensive to the natural man; he pleases all!”**

**REMEMBER:** THE BROAD WAY/WIDE GATE CHURCH is outwardly impressive... and MAY WELL BE ORTHODOX in many doctrines; but inwardly she is an evil harlot, an adulteress. ***She loves the world and is loved by the world. Thus, the love of the Father is not in her! (1 John 2:15)*** She comes in many 'shades and colors!' and is in explosive end-time revival! ***HOWEVER, she offers a REVIVAL that gives the comforts of “religion” while at the same time allowing deceived masses TO KEEP their sin and ego.*** AT THE WIDE GATE church there is no need of denying yourself, taking up your cross daily, and following Jesus.

PROBLEM: God did not plant her and in due time she shall be rooted up! JESUS SAYS SO! (Matthew 15:13)

Her SUCCESSFUL RELIGIOUS LEADERS will one day hear Jesus say to them: I NEVER KNEW YOU! JESUS SAYS SO. (Matthew 7:21-23)

**In great contrast, THE NARROW GATE CHURCH (Matthew 7:13-14), EXPERIENCES** the life of God in their souls by the miracle of new birth and revival by the Spirit of God. They are those who all their lives **had been** dead in sin, and living according to the course of this present world, and duped by the devil; and they were under the holy and just wrath of God, (Ephesians 2:1-3)! BUT GOD: Ephesians 2:4-10!

**YES, BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE** THEY ARE set free from satan; and set free from sin's guilt, power, and domination by the precious blood of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit who now resides in all true saints of God! (Ephesians 2:4-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

## **THINGS IMPORTANT TO 'NARROW GATE' CONGREGATIONS!**

### **As a LOCAL Church!**

- 1. We Exist to MAGNIFY,** to worship the one true and living triune God!
- 2. And to MAKE KNOWN** God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ to our neighbors and to the nations.
- 3. And to MOVE BELIEVERS in Jesus** toward Christian maturity and ministry.
- 4. WE ARE TO FUNCTION AS SALT AND LIGHT** IN A DARK WORLD, letting the light and life of Jesus shine before men that they will see GOOD WORKS and glorify Almighty God!
- 5. If we are to indeed INFLUENCE OUR WORLD** with the Gospel of Jesus Christ—

**We must be prepared to WALK THE TALK!**

**The world around us is in DARKNESS and in DECAY/PUTREFACTION.** By Grace we are to be increasingly different! As Christians we are to show forth Light not darkness; and Holiness not putrefaction!

I read the story of a fellow, **Richard Cross**, who at the age of 25 had already spent more than 15 years in prison or reform school. In the prison, he was one of the tough guys. But one day, unexpectedly, he found himself listening to a preacher preach the Gospel of Christ.

Even to his own surprise, he soon CONVERTED to Christ and overnight experienced a radical transformation. Sometime later, Richard was asked if his fellow inmates respected him after he gave his life to Christ.

Richard said, ***"YES, THEY RESPECT ME BECAUSE I WALK THE TALK!"***

After a while the fellow inmates were convinced that Richard meant business with the LORD; and a number of them began to listen and a good number came to saving faith in Christ.

They were influenced by the radical difference. SO LET IT BE among us!

**GET WITH THE TIMES?** (Edited from R. E. Bieber)

“How are you going to reach this generation unless you get with the times? ....unless what we have to offer is timeless ....unless the words we speak come from the Eternal. GET WITH THE TIMES?

The greatest need of "the times" is not more smooth, cool preachers who compromise the Word of God... OR more prophecy hobbyists... or more promises of prosperity.

## **NO. RATHER, HERE IS THE GREAT NEED:**

CLEAR PROPHETIC GOSPEL WORDS from real Christians who are crucified with Christ! ***The Kingdom of God is not worldly music/sounds/flashy lights or promises that you can have Jesus and keep your sin. THE KINGDOM OF GOD is..."...righteousness, and peace, and joy IN THE HOLY SPIRIT."*** (Romans 14:17)

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD comes in POWER; and that power is found nowhere, but IN THE CROSS!**

"For the preaching of the CROSS is to them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but to those of us who are saved is is the POWER OF GOD!" (1 Cor. 1:18) "... it PLEASED GOD by the foolishness of PREACHING to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21b)

"But we PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, to the Jews a stumblingblock, and to the Greeks foolishness; BUT TO THEM WHICH ARE CALLED, both Jews and Greeks, CHRIST, the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)

***"When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words of wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST and HIM CRUCIFIED.***

***And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the***

*Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:2)*

**BUT, says many .... THE CHURCH MUST BE relevant TO A CHANGING SOCIETY!** THUS, MANY CHURCHES ARE LOOKING AND ACTING MORE AND MORE LIKE THE WORLD.

**CONTRAST—** Noah was 100% IRRELEVANT to his culture. He preached for at least 100 years and was not able to build a mega-church... because HE DID NOT AND WOULD NOT ADAPT to society in order to reach them.

HE SIMPLY WALKED WITH GOD, OBEYED GOD, AND PREACHED RIGHTEOUSNESS! Noah's preaching would have been VOTED THE MOST IRRELEVANT PREACHING over the last 100 years!

**However, the supreme issue is faithfulness to the Word of God regardless of whether or not there is a response, whether or not a crowd comes to listen!**

(Listen to Noah? Are you kidding? He is too negative! He is too radical. Besides, how big a church has he built? ... etc.)

**NOAH is a story of ROUSING SUCCESS at being totally irrelevant to society while being totally RELEVANT to God!** And now we are in the last days, which Jesus says are LIKE the days of Noah.

**TO WHOM SHALL WE BE RELEVANT? GOD or MAN?**

By the grace of God, I shall seek to walk in the example of Noah! I hope you will also!

Examples from the New Testament:

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5--** And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

**2 Timothy 4:1-4--** "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

## **WHAT IS GOD'S METHOD TO BUILD HIS CHURCH?**

### **Answer:**

- 1.** The gospel experienced, lived, and preached by the redeemed!
- 2. When GOD SETS FORTH 'VISUALS'...** They are NEVER the 'play-acting' type. Rather, He sends forth real, redeemed Christians!
- 3.** Real Christians who are overflowing with His love, His holiness, His forgiveness, etc.

**4.** Real Christians who know that the ONE TREASURE of the Christian faith is the GOSPEL; and that the GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD....! (Romans 1)

### **LET US BE ALERT:**

While Jesus continues to Build His Church by the exclusive power of the Gospel and by the agency of the Holy Spirit— AN ENEMY PLANTS TARES. False apostles and deceitful workers transform themselves into 'apostles of Christ' (2 Cor. 11:13-15)

In the olden times there were false prophets and the New Testament warns that there 'shall be'... and MANY FOLLOW their ways, so much so that discredit is brought upon the real truth! (2 Peter 2:1-22)

Today, there is a great and impressive HARLOT RELIGION SYSTEM... not limited to one denomination...for there is almost endless variety on the Broad Road to Destruction! (Matt. 7:13-29)

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Which church— the Harlot or the Bride? **That determines what methods are used and the Pastors/Elders a church calls/ordains!**

ABOUNDING Mercy, Grace, Love, and PEACE to all in Christ!

James Bell [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://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 OCTOBER 29, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[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 27**

**9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages**

**10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service**

**SPECIAL EVENT:**

**\*\*\*\* 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)**

