



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 47, December 3, 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.*”**

## **JESUS CHRIST— THE SAVIOUR FROM SIN!**

A search in the Holy Word of God reveals at least 24 reasons WHY Jesus came! **HOWEVER, FOR MULTITUDES of sincere Christians EVERY** November and December **brings serious spiritual battles!** (Yes, as with every other month, there are temptations to CHOOSE EVIL over good!) **HOWEVER**, multitudes seem blind to the much stronger temptation— namely, to favor the temporal over the eternal!

**I suspect that we all agree with the following words of Jesus, in Matthew 67:24:** *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon— [deceitful riches, money, possessions, the sacred traditions of man, etc.]”***

***WE MUST BE ON THE ALERT: MANY ARE THE POTENTIAL IDOLS OF THE HEART! And many heart idols are especially deadly when they are camouflaged, disguised, and/or mixed in with that which is good.***

FOR EXAMPLE... there may not be anything overtly bad with the desires of the people in the illustration last week. However, as the conversation developed— **we find that JESUS and the real reason HE CAME WAS shockingly DESPISED!** (And I suspect that they were BLIND as to the exposure of their heart's deepest loyalty!) **MOREOVER,** I genuinely suspect that the first six of them had a desire to honor Christ— but were torn and overwhelmed by the PREDOMINATE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON!) **THEY each SPOKE:**

**[1]** “152 days until Christmas! Love the holidays... it's the days leading up to it with madness... and then it's wintertime... sigh”

**[2]** “I can't even think about that right now. It seems that I have so many other things to get through first.”

**[3]** “I always wonder why all kids programs are scheduled then?? Why music recitals etc with everything else we have to do?”

**[4]** “EXACTLY!!”

**[5]** “I wish it was just a relaxing time when we could enjoy ourselves with our families and friends, and not just a time of negative financial impact and stress!”

**[6]** “So, let's start now... I feel better already! Family, food, fun... period.”

**[7]** **Number 7... set forth a stunning contrast:** “Amazing: The New Testament Christians did not have, did not celebrate ‘our Christmas’ in any shape, form, or fashion. THEY DID rejoice in and celebrate the glorious reality that GOD HAD COME IN THE FLESH!

**For example:**

Paul has been teaching about Elders and Deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-15... And then he JUST EXPLODES with spontaneous worship: *“And without controversy GREAT is the mystery of godliness: **GOD WAS MANIFEST in the flesh.... etc.!!”** OR... as in 2 Corinthians*

9:1-14 he has been speaking much about generous giving... but suddenly, he BURSTS FORTH: ***"THANKS BE TO GOD for His UNSPEAKABLE GIFT!"***

**THREE of the Six RESPONED to the 7<sup>th</sup> person's comments:**

**[1]** "Oh no let's not talk about that!!!!"

**[2]** "dislike"

**[3]** "ugh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

**Yes... we may have the best of intentions! However, Jesus lovingly warns us of a vital truth: Matthew 6:24, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. WE cannot serve God and mammon!"***

**WE CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS!**

- 1.** We will FAVOR one and resent the other!
- 2.** One will get FIRST PLACE— Our hearts, Our enthusiasm, Our time, etc!
- 3.** The other will get excuses and left-overs! And we will easily get defensive as we seek to justify our idols!

**TO WIN THIS WAR... to empower us in JESUS HAVING FIRST PLACE IN OUR HEARTS— LET US search in the Holy Word of God which reveals at least 24 reasons WHY Jesus came! *May we all, meditate upon, rejoice in, and act upon them so that JESUS HIMSELF has FIRST PLACE and is more and more Center Stage in our daily lives!***

**1. JESUS CAME to reveal God the Father to man:** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him, (John 1:18). "And he

that sees Me sees Him that sent Me, (John 12:45). Jesus said unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He that has seen Me has seen the Father; and how do you say then, Show us the Father?" (John 14:9)

**2. JESUS CAME because God the Father sent Him:** "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father has sent Me, even so send I you, (John 20:21, John 3:16-17; 6:38).

**3. JESUS CAME to be the Saviour of the world:** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world, (1 John 4:14).

**4. JESUS CAME to preach the kingdom of God:** And He said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth, (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43).

**5. JESUS CAME to bear witness to the truth:** Pilate therefore said unto Him, Are you a king then? Jesus answered, you say that I am a king.

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.

Every one that is of the truth hears My voice, (John 18:37).

**6. JESUS CAME to be a light in the world:** I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on Me should not abide in darkness, (John 12:46).

**7. JESUS CAME to fulfill the law:** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill, (Matt 5:17).

**8. JESUS CAME to do the will of His Father:** For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me, (John 6:38).

**9. JESUS CAME to be a divider of men:** Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law, (Matt 10:34, 35)

**10. JESUS CAME to seek and save those who are lost:** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost, (Luke 19:10).

**11. JESUS CAME to call sinners to repentance:** When Jesus heard it, He said unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, (Mark 2:17).

**12. JESUS CAME to save sinners... really bad ones:** This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief, (1 Timothy 1:15). For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved, (John 3:17). 1

**13. JESUS CAME to minister and to give His life a ransom for many:** Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many, (Matthew 20:28).

**14. JESUS CAME to finish the work of the Father:** Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work, (John 4:34; John 17:4).

**15. JESUS CAME to be the propitiation for our sins:** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins, (1 John 4:10).

**16. JESUS CAME to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself:** For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now

once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, (Hebrews. 9:26).

**17. JESUS CAME to take away our sins:** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins: and in Him is no sin, (1 John 3:5).

**18. JESUS CAME to die upon the Cross:** Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour, (John 12:27).

**19. JESUS CAME to redeem those under the law,** that they might receive adoption of sons: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons, (Galatians 4:4, 5).

**20. JESUS CAME that we might live through Him:** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him, (1 John 4:9).

**21. JESUS CAME that we might have life and have it more abundantly:** The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I AM come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly, (John 10:10).

**22. JESUS CAME to bless us by turning us away from sin:** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities, (Acts 3:26).

**23. JESUS CAME to destroy the works of the devil:** He that commits sin (as a continuing pattern of life), is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, (revealed), that He might destroy the works of the devil, (1 John 3:8).

**24. JESUS CAME to make it possible for the righteousness of the law to be fulfilled in us through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit:** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the

likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, (Romans 8:3, 4).

**HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOUR!**

[A variety of sources used in preparing this article, including material

Grace to all in Christ! James Bell

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 scheduled for JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 @ 11:00am;**

**NEW STUDY ==> LESSONS FROM WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE!**  
 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 FOR DECEMBER, 2019**  
**December 8, 15, 22, 29**

**ALL SUNDAYS:** **\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am / \*\* Worship at 10:45am**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:**

- 1. December 8—** 5:30pm... Monthly Faithful Men's Meeting
- 2. December 15—** DURING the worship hour,

**\*\*\* The Choir and/or others...** will share extra music, as we REJOICE in the BIRTH OF CHRIST]; **\*\*\*\* WE WILL PREACH** the Word of God; **and**

**\*\*\*\*\* Conclude with the LORD'S SUPPER!**

**[Some Home Groups may meet in the Evening]**

- 3. December 23—** NO evening service

- 4. December 30—** NO 5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday Evening Service



