



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 4, January 28, 2020 / 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.***

## **GOD'S STRATEGY FOR BUILDING UP THE LOCAL CHURCH!**

Entertainment oriented masses love high drama movies/sports, and listen to high energy music. So, the 'experts' say that churches must find out what their potential audience loves and then give it to them! 'CHURCH' has to be orchestrated to please and excite emotions!

BUT AS TO MODERN CHRISTIANS being focused on devouring the Word of God and being transformed— not so much. Loyalty to God's Biblical truth is often cast aside— because, after all: 'I went, I saw, I felt, I experienced good emotions from a movie, a concert, a high energy church, etc.'

**SADLY, EVEN THE SUPPOSED 'WE-BELIEVE-THE-BIBLE! CHURCH'** has been dumbed down to activities, events, and entertainment. TODAY, churches are HIGH ON experience and low on doctrine, correction, rebuke, instruction in righteousness— 2 Timothy 3:15-17. They are HIGH on self and low on EXALTING ALMIGHTY GOD— 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

BE ALL THAT AS IT MAY— **God's Word is TRUE and RELEVANT** in any era of time and/or in any culture; **and** is where we need to turn if we desire **GENUINE VISUAL AIDS** to help us to both UNDERSTAND 'CHURCH' as God intends church to be; and to give

us a DIVINE STRATEGY to embrace as we TEAM UP WITH JESUS as He BUILDS HIS CHURCH... and gloriously assigns us as His 'CO-LABORERS!'

**FIRST... WE MUST START WITH FOUNDATIONAL REALITY:** ON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SCENE— [1] There are those PLANTED by God the Father, as **the BRIDE** for His SON! (Matthew 15:12-14; John 17); [2] And there are those (tares) WHOM THE FATHER DID NOT PLANT! (Matthew 15:12-14; 13:25-30; Revelation 17) **The Harlot Church**, which is a church of wide variety and BROAD enough for the masses APPEARS IMPRESSIVE and very SUCCESSFUL. However, as with Cain's worship offering— it matters not if humans are pleased. ONLY WHAT GOD SAYS MATTERS! (Matthew 7:21-27)

**Here are THREE GOD-GIVEN, GOD-ORDAINED 'VISUAL AIDS' WHICH EMPOWER GENUINE GOSPEL WITNESS— GIVEN to every Local Church who is an expression of the Bride of Christ, and not an expression of the Harlot!**

### **I. THE VISUAL AID OF YOUR HUMAN BODY!**

To be envisioned with understanding about the LOCAL CHURCH BODY to which the Holy Spirit has joined you— **take a look at your PHYSICAL BODY!** (1 Corinthians 12:1-30; Ephesians 4:11-16) When we read 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-16 we discover that the Holy Spirit sets forth our HUMAN BODIES as a **living visual aid** revealing how the Holy Spirit sets up and ministers in and through a local congregation. Again, we must carefully read 1 Cor. 12:4-27 and Eph. 4:11-16.

**SERIOUS QUESTION:** If the members of your physical body acted and related to each other IN THE SAME WAY you do to other members in the local church to which the Holy Spirit has you joined— **IN WHAT KIND OF SHAPE would your physical body**

**be? WHAT IF** some of the members of your body were in rebellion against the rest of your body? **What if** 5 minutes after you read this, some of the members of your physical body get offended, leave, and join another body? What kind of grotesque body would you have? **What if** you get ready to go to work on Thursday... and your right foot says, *'I've prayed about it... and I do not feel led to go to work today?* **ARE THOSE CRAZY QUESTIONS? Yes, but** they accurately express the carnal reality under which many, even Bible-believing, congregations are forced to operate!

THANKFULLY, as to your body, although there is TREMENDOUS DIVERSITY in the members of our physical bodies — under the control of the HEAD — all of these diverse members function in glorious steadfast commitment, HARMONY, and in MUTUAL CARE ONE FOR ANOTHER!

**CHRISTIAN, LOOK AT YOUR PHYSICAL BODY: It is NOT ONLY** the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) — your physical body is **a LIVING, VISUAL** demonstration of how God has ordained for us to function in harmony and with great effectiveness in a local assembly of saints! (Ephesians 4:11-16)  
**WHAT IS YOUR/OUR RESPONSE?**

## **II. THE VISUAL AID OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE!**

**Christian Marriage provides another VISUAL AID for the advancement of local assemblies of the Bride of Christ.** In the following verses there are SPECIFIC COMMANDS and instructions for Christian husbands toward their wives. BUT FAR GREATER THAN THAT— the marriage relationship provides a real live demonstration [A VISUAL AID] before and to a watching world of genuine Christianity. **EPHESIANS 5:25-32:**

<sup>25-27</sup> *But, remember, this means that the husband must **give his wife the same sort of love** that Christ gave to the Church, when he sacrificed himself for her. **Christ gave Himself** to make her holy, having cleansed her through the baptism of His Word— **to make her an altogether glorious Church in His eyes**. She is to be free from spots, wrinkles or any other disfigurement— a Church holy and perfect.*

<sup>28-33</sup> **Men ought to give their wives the love they naturally have for their own bodies... Nobody** ever hates or neglects his own body; he feeds and looks after it. **And that is what Christ does for His body, the Church.**

*And we are all members of that body, we are His flesh and blood! 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'.*

*The marriage relationship is doubtless a great mystery, but I am speaking of something deeper still— **the marriage of Christ and his Church!**" (Eph. 5:25-32 J.B. Phillips, paraphrase)*

**Christian marriage is a VISUAL display of the Bride of Christ, expressed in local assemblies**— before one another and before a watching world! **SO: [1] GOD has ordained** that our PHYSICAL BODIES demonstrate how a local body of believers is to be set up, and to function in harmony and with great effectiveness— that's a VISUAL MESSAGE TO US... and empowers us in our witness to a world who needs to SEE JESUS! AND, **GOD has ordained [2] EARTHLY MARRIAGE *between one man and one woman to*** be a LIVING VISUAL TO A LOST WORLD... OF CHRIST and HIS CHURCH. **QUESTION: DO WE SEE IT?**

NOTE: God's method OF GIVING VISUALS to ourselves and to a watching world is not play-acting drama, various styles of

entertaining, emotion-stirring music, ‘Christian’ comedians, etc!  
**GOD’S METHOD IS HIS CHURCH**, expressed where ever His Bride is found; **and expressed** where ever His Bride ASSEMBLES for worship, edification, equipping; **and expressed** as His bride receives assignments to go out as lambs, being sent forth IN THE MIDST of the wolves **to LIVE SUPERNATURALLY!**

**III. THERE IS yet ANOTHER VISUAL— SNOW!** THERE CAME A DAY WHEN GOD ASKED JOB A FEW QUESTIONS! **(READ: Job 38:1-3)** (The astounding questions go from Job 38 almost to the end of Job 42) But in Job 38:22, GOD ASKED JOB, **“HAVE YOU ENTERED INTO THE TREASURES, THE TREASURIES, THE STOREHOUSE OF THE SNOW?”**

R. G. LEE, ONCE PREACHED: “God paints the sky blue, the sunset red, the leaves green and then golden and the flowers are an endless variety of color. But when God paints his Masterpiece— He sends the snow and paints everything gloriously white!” RIGHT NOW ON EARTH, **JESUS IS doing something far greater than displaying AMAZING WHITE MASTERPIECES OF SNOW— HE IS BUILDING HIS ULTIMATE MASTERPIECE, HIS CHURCH!** [Note: The world does not care for the Bride of Christ! Maybe in reality— you and I do not either!!! **BUT GOD DOES! (THE LEVEL OF our commitment to His Bride is a genuine measure of our commitment to Jesus Christ!)**

[HERE IS A CONFESSION OF DEEP DECEPTION — *“I love Jesus. I am committed to Jesus. But I do not need HIS BODY! I can’t find a local church that suits me!” “JESUS, THE HEAD— I LOVE. But, not His Body!”*]**Wake up** before it is eternally TOO LATE— your ‘Jesus’ is an idol which you have created!]

**VISUAL LESSONS IN THE SNOW FOR THIS LOCAL CHURCH?**

## 1. The Treasures of the Snow Reveal Unity, Harmony, and Teamwork.

A snow flake! It seems to have no weight. It certainly has no power. Or does it? What can a snow flake do? By itself, nothing! Silently it falls. It is easily swallowed up. It disappears, melts, it's gone. HOWEVER, when divinely ordered conditions are just right and these tiny, powerless, beautiful *nothings* fall in concert with other snowflakes by the billions and trillions upon trillions— **what happens?** **R. G. Lee said**, “When these soldiers move out from their cloud tents, and marshal their innumerable white battalions, and march with silent tread across the face of the earth— What then? They defeat the armies of men. They bring to standstill mighty locomotives. They block all the roads and tie up all the traffic systems. They can gather in avalanche formation on the mountains and sweep away or bury all that cross their awesome path....” **Now that's POWER!! A Snowflake!** — one is just a tiny mite, a flimsy flake! However, when they unite in TEAMWORK, they become awesome! ***O what a mighty sermon the silent snow fall preaches! It's a sermon about the power of unity and the beauty of harmony and teamwork!*** God says to the snow, “*Be thou on the earth!*” And they begin to march **in one accord!**

**APPLICATION:** To be a CHRIST honoring, CHRIST revealing expression of God's beauty and power, **Southside Church** (or the congregation to which the Holy Spirit has joined you!) **must enter into the treasures of the snow's unity, harmony and teamwork!** [Psalm 133:1-3; Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:42-47; 4:23-32; Phil 1:27; 2:3-5; 2:14-16]

**CONSIDER:** Snowflakes are individually formed by God. We are told that **no two are alike. NOW THAT IS DIVERSITY!** Yet when

God sends them to cover the earth— once they land upon a tree limb or upon the top of a fence post or on a roof top or as they fall upon the plain earth— **they willingly lose their individual beauty to join with all other snowflakes for the master design of God’s purpose.** Placed in a fashion that pleases God, they are all teamed up, giving forth wonder and power and beauty through harmony, unity, and teamwork! (1 Corinthians 12!)

## **2. The Treasures of the Snow Reveal the POWER of OBEDIENCE!**

Snowflakes delight to do their Master’s bidding. The great secret of their power is that they have no will but His. **We have never walked out into a snowfall and heard snowflakes arguing,** or complaining, or criticizing, or pouting, or slandering, or getting their feelings hurt, or being bitter, or being selfish! **We have never seen snowflakes refusing to be team-players! WHY NOT?** Snowflakes move at HIS command!

**Here are some COMMANDS of JESUS for His church in the year 2020:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-26; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:15-16. **LET US COMMIT to living this hymn,** *“... We’ll move at His command, We’ll soon possess the land, Through loyalty, loyalty, Yes, loyalty to Christ.”*

**We must understand:** There is no loyalty to Christ if we reject His method! The method of Jesus is a local assembly, a body of believers in ONE ACCORD. God is calling us at Southside to the “ONE ACCORD” which is modeled in the book of Acts and taught in the Epistles.

**JESUS is calling us to be in one accord in** Prayer, in Worship, in Bible Study, in Sharing and meeting each other’s needs, in proclaiming the gospel and in submission to one another in the fear of God. **REALITY:** The more we are dead to selfish ambition

and only have a passion for JESUS to be glorified— being in One Accord becomes easy! (Matthew 11:28-30)

**SAINTS of God in Christ at Southside:** When God saved you, He did so individually. Now, enter into the Treasures of the Snow: God creates and sends each and every individual snow flake! But then He places them in concert, in one accord with other snowflakes to accomplish grand, beautiful, and powerful purposes.

**And when it comes to His church—** Jesus baptizes the saved into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit and sovereignly places each one into local assemblies. This means that fundamental unity in a local assembly of saints in Christ is not a goal to be sought after. Rather, it is God-given reality to be rejoiced in and guarded! This is why we are commanded by JESUS to strive to maintain our God-given unity. (Eph. 4:1-3) **Therefore, Unless We are Proud and Backslidden—**

**When** we as individual Christians make decisions in life, **we will be primarily concerned about** glorifying Christ and His church. **We will be** concerned about how our individual decisions and choices will impact the local assembly to which we are joined by God. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:5) ***We will heed the voice of the Master who has ordained that local churches function as bodies in concert and not as selfish individual members in solo.***

**We will experience the fruit of members in obedience to God!** What is that fruit? Awesome manifestations of love by which the world knows that we are His disciples! Moreover, in CONCERT, we will fill our towns with the gospel and turn our worlds upside down, even as did the early church!

**3. The Treasures of the Snow Reveal the Miracle of GRACE FOR SINNERS!**

How quickly and beautifully the snow transforms the black housetop, the garbage heap, the mud hole— now they are all pure white and sculptured with incredible symmetry! But more than just the beauty of the moment, the treasures of the snow silently shout, ***“Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!”*** (Romans 5:20; 6-8; John 3:16) **ISAIAH 1:18, PROCLAIMS,** *“Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as WHITE AS SNOW!”*

YES... God takes the vilest sinner, grossly contaminated with sin and deserving of hell, and makes him/her clean, cleansed, forgiven and as white as snow by the precious blood of Jesus; so that he/she may go forth as HIS SHEEP in the midst of the wolves of the world.... GO FORTH AS LIVING VISUALS! The Harlot is being built, impressively so, with ‘plastic’... make-believe visuals. THE BRIDE OF CHRIST is being built BY JESUS WITH LIVING VISUALS!

***“Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want Thee forever to ransom my soul; break down every idol, cast out every foe: NOW WASH ME, and I shall be WHITER THAN SNOW! Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow; Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow!”*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3dJMwxIZvo>

Great Grace to All! 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** scheduled for **FEBRUARY 4<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: (WE ARE STUDYING THE GOSPEL OF 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 FEBRUARY— 2, 9, 16, 23**

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

*ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:*

**1. February 2 ... NOON Fellowship 'Covered-dish' Meal**

**2. February 9 ...** Equipping Faithful Men at 5:30pm; 1689 Confession of Faith Study Group

**3. February 16 ...** LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of the Morning Worship service; Home Groups, most at 5pm

**4. February 23 ...** CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL ... currently completing a VIDEO series on Husband/Wife relationships, at 6:00pm