



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 8, February 25, 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.***

## **SOUTHSIDE— WE are CALLED to WORSHIP GOD!**

**When we gather as a Church Family to worship God**, it means that we have gathered **to ascribe** worth to God; **to prostrate** ourselves before God in loving submission; **to offer** unto Him honor, praise, and adoration; **to** recognize God’s glory, greatness, power, majesty, and **rule**. **And it means that we offer ourselves to Him as His servants!**

**THE TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD IS ABOUT**, “Did God receive my whole hearted praise, adoration? **Did He receive** from me offerings of repentance, submission, and fresh obedience?” **WAKE UP CALL: *A Biblically based worship service is not designed to attract crowds— rather, is an opportunity for saints to worship God in spirit and in truth. The entire service is to be WORSHIP unto the LORD— be it while singing; and/or praying unto the LORD; or WHILE receiving the preached/taught WORD OF GOD!***

## **HERE US AB ALL TOO COMMON and SAD REALITY**

**[1]** Folks who have not worshiped in spirit and in truth all week, walk in for congregational worship services **DESIRING** to be pleased, to be made to feel good, and desiring to be religiously excited. **THUS,**

**[2] IT IS TOO COMMON FOR Professionals** to stand before congregations with charismatic personalities, with high powered electronics, dramatic SIGHTS and SOUNDS, and powerful, flesh appealing musical and dramatic presentations; and THE CROWDS LOVE IT!

**BEWARE:** Here are two Biblical examples of exciting, crowd pleasing, innovative congregational worship services— BUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM! GOD REJECTED IT: Exodus 32; Isaiah 1:1-17.

SOLUTION: “IN TRUE WORSHIP praise and obedience are given to God because of WHO HE IS and because of His great acts of Creation and Redemption.”

**MOREOVER, the true worship to God is NOT LIMITED to a congregational worship; but is done in daily life as we respond to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit with the grand note of worship:**

***“AMEN, SO BE IT LORD! I GIVE THANKS and PRAISE YOU! I embrace thy will, I surrender, submit, yield, and bow to Thee! I choose to forgive. I choose to love, to be kind, etc. I FLEE SIN!”*** In other words, GOD SPEAKS: WE BOW and OBEY, and proclaim, ***“Be it unto me according to Thy Word!”*** That’s the **‘AMEN!’** of genuine worship. Christian worship is about what God receives, rather than about what we get!

**THE WONDERFUL MIRACLE OF GENUINE WORSHIP:** When those who worship God in daily life show up for a congregational worship service with fellow saints— **No one has to artificially prime the ‘worship pump!’** When we are true worshipers of God in daily life— GENUINE EXCITEMENT, THE JOY OF THE LORD, AWESOME PRAISE, and FRESH FAITH/OBEDIENCE WILL COME FORTH in the congregational Worship!

## THE RESULT OF GENUINE WORSHIP IS THAT,

1. **We go forth** into the world living lives of love, purity, compassion, forgiveness, joy, peace and more.
2. **We go forth** on mission to make Christ visible and known to the lost world around us.
3. **AND when we adapt ourselves to Him and to His revealed will in worship**, we will receive what we truly need from worship— namely,
  - \*\* **JOY IN GOD!** \*\* **Renewed power** to win daily spiritual battles!
  - \*\* **Fresh boldness** as witnesses for Christ!

## BIBLICAL Expressions in the Corporate Worship of God!

1. **The preaching/teaching of the Word of God** is VITAL in corporate worship. ***"To worship God we must know who God is, but we cannot know who God is unless God first chooses to reveal Himself to us. God has done this in the Bible, which is why the Bible and the teaching of the Bible need to be central in our worship."*** (James M. Boice)
2. **In the worship of God it is a good thing** for the whole congregation to freely and expressively speak forth words of Praise to God; and **to openly say, "AMEN!"** [**Saying 'AMEN' is 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...**"
  - \*\*\* 1 Chronicles 16:8-36— A great, God-centered Psalm was read before the people..."**And all the people said, AMEN,** and praised the LORD!"
  - \*\*\* Psalm 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 worshiping 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! AMEN! ALLELUIA!**"

**3. In the worship of God it is a good thing for the congregation to freely and expressively SING! \*\*Psalm 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!" (Col. 3:16; Matt.26:30)

**AS TO SINGING UNTO THE LORD— WE MUST AWAKEN TO THE PURPOSE and POWER OF MUSIC!**

In Genesis, as the historical account of creation is unveiled, God simply proclaimed again and again, "***It is good!***" AND, as we learn in Job 38:4, 7, all the angels responded to God's grand creative acts with ***SINGING AND SHOUTING FOR JOY!*** (See Psalm 19:1-6) ***THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN*** prior to Lucifer's rebellion. The universe was still united in perfect harmony. There was not one dissenting voice! Lucifer and all other angelic beings ***SANG AND SHOUTED FOR JOY*** when God set in motion the laying of the earth's foundation!

One of the clear revelations of this scene is that **singing/music presented in praise to God** was the chief occupation of Lucifer prior to his fall! Indeed, angelic beings are seen thorough out Scripture SOUNDING FORTH PRAISE and **MUSIC** in joyful worship of Almighty God. When Jesus came to earth, "*a multitude of the heavenly hosts*" were praising God!

When Isaiah saw the LORD in a vision of the Throne Room of the Universe, the seraphim were crying out PRAISE to God!

THE REVELATION shows wonderful PRAISE TO GOD by angelic ones.

**THE POINT?** The Bible reveals very clearly that MUSIC is a creation of God **FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PRAISE and WORSHIP OF THE ALMIGHTY, TRIUNE GOD!**

HOWEVER, at some point Lucifer began to desire worship for himself. In arrogance and pride he rebelled, (Isaiah 14:13-14). Tragically, a full one third of the angelic hosts joined Lucifer's rebellion. God kicked satan and these fallen angels out of heaven. Their sphere of influence was and is to this day, upon the earth. (Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:3, 7-9)

**WHAT'S THE POINT?** Lucifer (now satan) and the fallen angels who were originally created with musical giftedness which they used day and night in praise to God— but they rebelled against God: They are now working in the sphere of the earth.

**THEY STILL HAVE THEIR PRIMARY GIFTEDNESS— MUSIC!** But obviously, they do not use it for the purpose of praise to God! They now use all of their musical ability to generate worship for Lucifer or satan! It is critically important to understand that **Lucifer knows the power of music!**

**REALITY: All Music Has inspired Origin, Purpose, and Power!**— Either from God or from satan! By the means of 'his music' satan stirs the masses physically, emotionally, and spiritually for his own evil purposes!

**SINCE MUSIC WAS CREATED BY GOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE WORSHIP OF THE ONE TRUE AND WORTHY ALMIGHTY GOD—**

music that is not composed and presented WITH THE INTENT OF music's original purpose cannot be neutral or harmless!

Music that does not lead one to worship, honor, and serve Almighty God, must of necessity (sooner or later) lead one down a path of turning away from God, of growing cold toward God, of rebelling against God, and even of (ignorantly or otherwise!) worshiping satan himself. **REALITY: Lucifer and/or the fallen angels INSPIRE music to create worship for Lucifer!**

**Remember:** Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world, if Jesus would only worship him! Satan, (an ex-angelic and ex-heavenly musician), now inspires music of many different stripes as he seeks to divert worship from God to himself!

**SATAN HAS COUNTERFEITED MUSIC! The airwaves of the world are filled with music— but not in praise to God!** There is music for every age group, every taste and every culture. It is music that promotes the world and the flesh. And unknown to most, the world's music has and will lead the masses to bow at satan's feet! Satan is ultimately behind any music, (including much religious music), that **does not** move us to worship, adore, and serve Almighty God and the Lamb! **THE SAD REALITY IS** that there is much so called Christian music that feeds the lusts of folk who love the world and have no intention of giving up their idols! Satan does not care what "flavor" of music we embrace, just so long as the music we choose does not openly and positively glorify God and the Lamb.

**WAKE UP CALL:** Since music is a wonderful gift from God, created for the purpose of magnifying God in worship; and SINCE MUSIC that openly and obviously glorifies God **is the only kind of music that is and forever will be in heaven— Why Would Any Christian Not Openly and Habitually Love Such Music?**

**SOME HELPFUL thoughts as to Music that is GODLY:**

**(1)** If it has words, the words will be in line with Bible doctrine;

**(2)** The focus will be God-centered and God-glorifying; and not man-centered and flesh feeding;

**(3)** The music will fit the words according to concepts of Galatians 5:17;

**(4)** Godly music will draw attention and praise to God;

**(5)** Godly music will edify and build you up to live a holy, Christ-honoring life.

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**4. It is a good thing to give TESTIMONIES in the midst of the congregation!** (Ps. 22:22-25; Ps 35:18; Ps. 66:13-16; Ps. 107:1-2; Ps. 107:31-32)

**5. In the worship of God it is a good thing for a congregation to stand, to kneel, to bow, etc.** In the Word of God, we find various physical postures in worship conveying gratitude, reverence, submission, humility, and/or dependence, etc. **[Yes, mere physical actions can become mechanical and/or hypocritical; and make God sick— Isaiah 1:2-15.]**

We must come to God in worship with right heart attitudes. But also, among those right attitudes is the submissive, godly embracing of Biblical expressions in worship, such as these of which we are speaking.

**MOREOVER, the fact that there are those who "get in the flesh" and just put on a show, rather than truly worship God—**

**NONE OF THESE NEGATIVE REALITIES GIVE US LIBERTY TO IGNORE, ALTER, OR REJECT THE STANDARD BIBLICAL PATTERNS!**

**6. In the worship of God 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 trusts 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!" (Ps. 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 the Apostle Paul to write: "I will therefore that men PRAY everywhere, **LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS**, without wrath and doubting." (1 Timothy 2:8)

**WAKE UP CALL:** "The loss of God's centrality in the life of today's church is common and tragic. It is the loss that HAS BROUGHT MULTITUDES TO

- \*\* Transform worship into entertainment,
- \*\* Gospel preaching into marketing,
- \*\* Becoming Christ-like into feeling good about ourselves, and
- \*\* Faithfulness into being successful..."

**THE GREAT NEED OF THE HOUR:** We must focus on God in our worship, rather than the satisfaction of our personal desires, likes, or needs.

**God is sovereign in worship; we are not.** Our concern must be for God's kingdom, not our own empires, popularity, or success."



**A REVIVAL OF GENUINE WORSHIP in our Southside church gatherings must be deeply rooted in \*\* Scripture alone (sola Scriptura), \*\* Grace alone (sola gratia), \*\* Christ alone (solus Christus), \*\* Faith alone (sola fide), and \*\* Glory to God alone (soli Deo Gloria).**

BELOVED! LET US GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD!

James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://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 scheduled for MARCH 3<sup>rd</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 MARCH— 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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

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

**\*\* MARCH 8 ... After Morning Worship... A CHURCH WIDE OPEN FORUM as to the call to receive Jaden Allen as an Elder!**

**\*\* MARCH 8 ... FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30pm, the 1689 Confession of Faith**

**\*\*\* MARCH 15 ... LORD'S SUPPER... after the morning worship service**

**\*\*\*\* MARCH 22 ... CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL ... at 6:00pm (SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Otto Koning, reveals the moment when God so worked in his life... that the TRIBALS said of him—"YOU'VE BACOME A CHRISTIAN!" It's all in the PINEAPPLE STORY!)**

**\*\*\*\*\* MARCH 29... CHURCH-WIDE EVENING OF SINGING AND SCRIPTURE SHARING (Connect with Adam or Bradley about participating!)**