



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 13, March 31, 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.***

CALLING OUR CHURCH FAMILY TO 31 DAYS OF PRAYER and FASTING— ... and GIVING UNTO THE LORD! March 16 - April 15 [Part 4]

PRAYER and FASTING: **There are more than a few reasons—** here are primary ones!

1. TO ENCOURAGE INTIMACY with and the worship of the KING OF KINGS and LORD of LORDS!

2. TO ENCOURAGE effectiveness in the work of the KINGDOM OF GOD— modeling the good news of the GOSPEL with our lives and proclaiming the GOSPEL with boldness.

3. TO ENCOURAGE prayer for all in authority: 1 Timothy 2:13 "... I admonish *and* urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, **For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility**, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet *and* undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness *and* reverence and seriousness in every way. For such [praying] is good *and* right, and [it is] pleasing *and* acceptable to God our Savior,..." (Amplified)

4. THUS, the 31 day call to SOUTHSIDERS to WORSHIP and ADORE the LORD our GOD! It is a call to,

PRAY FOR one another;

PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES;

PRAY FOR those who still abide under the wrath of God;

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS in proclaiming the GOSPEL; and

PRAY FOR our nation and for all who are in authority!

5. ADDITIONAL REALITY... WE CANNOT BE GENUINELY SERIOUS ABOUT PRAYING FOR those spoken of under #4— UNLESS WE ARE GIVING OURSELVES and GIVING LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD... to be used to support/fund ministries and missionaries! So, let us drink deeply of the following; and THEN we will share WAYS you can carry out GIVING your LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD... through Southside.

WILLING HEART GIVING UNTO THE LORD!

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (TLB) “Now I want to tell you what God in his grace has done for the churches in Macedonia.

²Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, **they have mixed their wonderful joy with their deep poverty, and the result has been an overflow of giving to others.**

³**They gave not only what they could afford but far more; and I can testify that they did it because they wanted to and not because of nagging on my part.**

⁴**They begged us to take the money so they could share in the joy of helping** the Christians in Jerusalem.

⁵ Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, ***for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord*** and to us, for whatever directions God might give to them through us.”

THE ONE KEY VISION that WILL PROPERLY GUIDE OUR GIVING UNTO THE LORD!

Years ago, **R.G. LeTourneau**, was a designer and manufacturer of heavy earth-moving equipment. His machinery transformed 5,000 acres of marshland into New York's Idlewild (now Kennedy) Airport, tore open the wilderness for the Alaskan Highway, made airstrips for the landing of the first Allied fighter planes on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, and cleared the debris from bombed-out European cities after World War II.

In the early years of his business, LeTourneau went into partnership with God. By this he did not lower grace to the level of a bargain. Rather he said, "Because I believe that God wants businessmen as well as preachers to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church."

In 1935 he irrevocably assigned over 90 percent of the company's profits to the LeTourneau Foundation, described as a "not-for-profit corporation whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ." (Moving Heaven and Earth, Donald Ackland, Iversen-Ford Associates, New York).

Countless Christian schools and organizations in America have been the recipients of his gift of giving. **Scarcely a mission field exists in all five continents** where some devoted worker has not been aided through money from this foundation. Altogether, millions of dollars have been given to further the Lord's work.

LeTourneau said: “I have never been much of a preacher of tithing. My Life Verse has been Matthew 6:33, **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!”** **MY PHILOSOPHY has been—** we should serve God because we love, not because we are making a bargain with Him... People say, IF I DO THIS FOR GOD will He also do something for me? That’s not love, it’s a bargain.”

“I often say, if you love the LORD you will serve Him;

And if you are not serving Him it proves you don’t love Him;

And if you don’t love Him it proves you don’t know Him!”

“MY MOTTO has been— not how much of my money do I give unto the LORD; but **how much of God’s money do I Keep for Myself?”**

THE APPLICATION: “I hope you are now beginning to understand what I meant when I began by saying that I’m not much of a preacher of tithing. If under the law the people of God gave one-tenth to the LORD, shame on us, living under grace, if we don’t do better. The tithe may be a place to begin if you are not now giving to the LORD, but it’s no place to stop.”

“You see what I mean? *If you get a vision of what our salvation cost,* see Christ on the cross, the cruel nails in his hands and feet, the mocking crowd and the weight of our sin... paying the penalty for you and for me— *it will put your service and giving on a different plane.*****

He [JESUS!] gave Himself willingly to give us salvation from sin. If this grips us, we can't help but love Him. We will say with the song writer— *Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!*"

THE CONCLUSION: "Only the grace of God can save us from a superficial declaration of love for God. *True love based on an understanding of God's grace and deep gratitude for the gift of salvation through our LORD Jesus Christ—*

These will settle the problem of "what should I give God"...

Because my thinking will be turned around to consider

That all I am and have belong to Him;

And I am a steward for Him

While serving Him in this life!

[The above is from R. G. LeTourneau's autobiography, Mover of Men and Mountains.]

SOUTHSIDERS: GIVING UNTO THE LORD—

When we can't meet for Church Services, or when we are home sick, or when we are on vacation, or when we lose our job, or when our income is cut, etc. — WHAT THEN?

FIRST, LET US KNOW THIS: WE ARE NOT giving to MERELY meet a budget, or pay the electric bill, or pay for the new heat pump, or to pay a salary, or even to support a missionary.

WE ARE GIVING UNTO THE LORD— for His ministry in and through various ministries and servants.

WHEN GIVING UNTO THE LORD... FOR THE LORD'S WORK, IN AND THROUGH SOUTHSIDE— such LOVE OFFERINGS may

ultimately be used for the temporal and mundane needs of the work... itemized in our church budget; OR they may be used for various ministries; OR for those in the household of faith who are in need; OR for the support of the LORD'S servants... from here to the ends of the earth!

BUT FIRST: LET US Meditate on this over and again; and HEED:

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (TLB) “Now I want to tell you what God in his grace has done for the churches in Macedonia. ²Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, **they have mixed their wonderful joy with their deep poverty, and the result has been an overflow of giving to others.**

³**They gave not only what they could afford but far more; and I can testify that they did it because they wanted to and not because of nagging on my part.** ⁴**They begged us to take the money so they could share in the joy of helping the Christians in Jerusalem.** ⁵**Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord** and to us, for whatever directions God might give to them through us.”

AGAIN: LET US FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF R.G. LeTourneau, AS HE FOLLOWED THE LORD:

******* “If you get a vision of what our salvation cost, see Christ on the cross, the cruel nails in his hands and feet, the mocking crowd and the weight of our sin... paying the penalty for you and for me— **it will put your service and giving on a different plane.**

***** He [JESUS!] gave Himself willingly to give us salvation from sin.** If this grips us, we can't help but love Him. We will say with the song writer— *Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!*"

***** True love based on an understanding of God's grace and deep gratitude for the gift of salvation through our LORD Jesus Christ— these will settle the problem of "what should I give God" because my thinking will be turned around to consider that *all I am and have belong to Him and I am a steward for Him while serving Him in this life!***

IN THIS PRESENT and UNUSUAL HOUR... when we are not able to have congregational WORSHIP at the Church building... we can with JOYFUL HEARTS give LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD, for ministry through Southside, via:

1. Send such funds, (if checks, make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066

2. You may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

OR... get to the same place this way:

GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

1. Scroll down & on your LEFT... click on CHURCH OFFERINGS

2. Then you will see-- GIVE NOW. Click on it

3. Fill out form and send....

NOTE: On the bottom of the FORM.... you will see **optional COMMENTS**, WHICH you might use this way:
"As noted above, I am sending \$100.00. I ask that \$50 be for general fund. \$25 be for missionary_____ \$25 be for missionary_____!"

Grace to all! James Bell

