



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 18, May 5, 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

## **GET RID OF INIQUITY and Declare WAR on unbelief!**

So as to experience great GOD-HONORING miracles in our family relationships, in our personal lives, and throughout the congregation— **let us, 'Get rid of iniquity and declare war on unbelief!'** [By the grace of God we have a Christ-like love among all the saints in Christ. But we would be foolish not to give the truth of this article some serious consideration!]

**INIQUITY**: Deviation from right; wickedness; **GROSS INJUSTICE**: A wrongful act; unjust thing or deed. The **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia** defines 'iniquity this way: "It is customary to explain it as meaning literally "crookedness," "perverseness," i.e. evil regarded as that which is not straight or upright, moral distortion,... "to bend," "make crooked," "pervert".

**The Free Online Dictionary**, following older dictionaries, **defines iniquity as**: "Gross immorality or injustice; wickedness. A grossly immoral act; a sin."

SIN IS the transgression of the law. INIQUITY also involves a transgression of the law but it is more than that— **Iniquity is GROSS INJUSTICE.**

**The most GROSS INJUSTICE of all WOULD BE TO say that Almighty God is wrong in any judgment or command He makes.** WE PROTEST: “O, I would never think of such a horrible thing at that!” REALITY: But that is precisely what we do whenever we make excuses for, or cover our sin, or blame others for our sin!

**SERIOUS REALITY:** When we cover our own sin, excuse our sin, rationalize our sin, or fail to agree with God that our sin is sin— **we turn that sin into iniquity!**

Adam's sin of eating the forbidden fruit turned to iniquity when he said in Gen 3:12 ... ***"The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me..."*** Realized or not, that ‘blame-shift’, that ‘smokescreen’ was an accusation that God had mismanaged his life. Adam was saying that his rebellion was God’s fault— **“the woman YOU GAVE ME....”!**

**When we excuse, cover or hide sin, or if we do not purpose to stop and turn away from sin— then that sin turns into iniquity.**

**Iniquity is GROSS INJUSTICE which blames/excuses OUR sin on anything and/or anyone other than our own self.** When enough iniquity is heaped up, one will no longer hear the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit. Iniquity gives **excuses or coverings for our sin rather than** pleading for mercy through the Blood of JESUS.

**THIS SORT OF INIQUITY IS DESTRUCTIVE AND COMMON IN CHRISTIAN HOMES, AMONG CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, AND IN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES!**

**When does this happen?**

Again, instead of confessing OUR OWN FAILURES AND SINS,

(1) we confess the real or imagined sins and failures of others!

(2) And as we do so, we also ASSIGN BLAME to others.

(3) Then we GOSSIP the real or imagined sins of others as we seek to RALLY the troops for OUR SIDE of the conflict!

(4) This process rains more and more destruction upon a marriage or a church family... which brings on more FINGER POINTING against others and all parties involved lament the destruction. But, of course, it's 'their' fault and not ours!

**REALITY:** The longer I linger in and justify this path, the more I quench and grieve the Holy Spirit and the closer I get to serious chastening from God.

**HERE IS AN additional REASON why we need to understand the difference between sin and iniquity:** Matthew 7:22-23—  
 “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**”

The eternal Kingdom of God is filled with redeemed, forgiven sinners. The Kingdom of God will not have workers of iniquity. ***A worker of iniquity is anyone who makes any excuse for sin, usually blaming it on something or someone else. Excuses for sin lead to iniquity.***

The problem with iniquity **is that** in making the excuse for the sin we not only refuse to repent, but we are in reality calling God an unjust or unrighteous Judge. **We judge God when we** excuse our

sin and turn our sin into iniquity. **For sin to be forgiven we must admit it as sin for which we are solely responsible!** Such is the mark of genuine Christianity— we own up to, confess, and turn from our sin without blaming anything or anyone else.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE:** Genuine believers can be guilty of serious INIQUITY. King David was heavy laden with iniquity. For months David excused his sin and refused to repent. However, because he was God’s child he was chastened with heavy guilt (Psalm 32) and God mercifully sent a bold preacher to confront him!

**To experience HOPE and FREEDOM,** I must no longer excuse any sin. I must be like David and take full responsibility: **Psalm 38:18**— “For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.” (Psalm 51) **WARNING: Once we have stopped** making excuses for sin; and have agreed with God that our sin is sin; and we have asked that the sin be covered by the Blood of JESUS— **don't let Satan beat you up with any past and forgiven sin.**

[Note: Once we are savingly in Christ— all sin (past, present and future) has already been once and for all forgiven. But in daily practice— we still must repent: Put off sin, mortify the deeds of the flesh and put on Christ!]

**IN DAILY SPIRITUAL BATTLE the answer is** (1) the ongoing power of the Blood of JESUS; (2) the indwelling Holy Spirit; (3) not making excuses for sin; (4) and confessing our own sin instead of the sins of others.

Have we hidden sin from God? Do we have unconfessed sin? If we do not have ‘hidden’ sin or sin we are excusing— then with clear conscience, let us praise God for the Blood of JESUS and the power of His resurrection life!

**Never give space for iniquity or unbelief!** JESUS says, "Go and SIN NO MORE!" Cut sin no slack. JESUS saves us from the law of sin and death and gives the Power of the Holy Spirit to stop sinning.

It is the Holy Spirit who not only convicts us of sin but KEEPS us from unbelief. The difference between belief and faith is the Holy Spirit. **Faith is belief**, acting upon the Word of God by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

**IT IS DEADLY to think that we will get away with hiding or excusing a sin and it is deadly to think the Lord has abandoned us.**

**Numbers 21:4-6:** "(Israel) journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea...and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. **And the people spake against God, and against Moses**, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread; and the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died" (Numbers 21:4-6).

**When the Bible tells us** that our loving Heavenly Father sent fiery serpents upon his own people, and that they died from the snake bites— **we can't ignore the very clear message: God will not allow such iniquity and unbelief among his people!**

After all that our precious Lord has done for us, the most hurtful accusation we can make against Him is that He has neglected us... or mismanaged our lives by what He has brought or allowed. **We must beware of such unbelief, especially in difficult times.**

Even at his lowest point, David wouldn't allow himself to wallow in unbelief. He cried, "For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O

Lord my God" (Psalm 38:15). Moreover, it was a wonderful day when he stopped making excuses for his sin! (Psalm 32; Psalm 51)

The example of David in Psalm 38 is very instructive for us: **He would not allow UNBELIEF and then he checked for INIQUITY.**

(1) **Psalm 38:15**— For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

(2) **Psalm 38:18**— For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

David had experienced despair and depression because of his sin which he COMMITTED AND TOPPED OFF WITH HIDING. **He experienced MIRACLES OF FORGIVENESS AND WAS RESTORED AND FULL OF JOY WHEN HE STOPPED MAKING EXCUSES and REPENTED OF HIS INIQUITY and UNBELIEF!**

**GOOD NEWS:** When we repent, we are (by grace) agreeing with God that we were wrong!

When we repent, then through the power of the Blood of JESUS and the indwelling Holy Spirit, WE EXPERIENCE God's continuing mercy— the blood of Jesus GOES ON cleansing us from all sin! Confession, repentance opens the flood gates of salvation birthright blessings!

Moreover, God will give us power through the Blood of JESUS and the indwelling Holy Spirit to stop sinning. The Blood of JESUS will not only cover sin; but, will empower us to win future battles over sin. (Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7) The real Jesus (Matthew 1:21) came to save sinners and save them from their sinning! AND the blood of JESUS defeats satan! (Revelation 12:10-11)

**THIS VERY DAY:** THE SAME MIRACLES are available for all who are in Christ! Taking our cue from Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 and applying what we find by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit— let us FLEE from **INIQUITY and DELCARE WAR on unbelief!** As we do, we will experience great GOD-HONORING miracles of love and joy restored in our family relationships, in our personal lives, and in CHURCHES!

**Grace to all in Christ! // [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

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***UPCOMING SERVICES AT 1028 SOUTH WATER AVENUE:***

**1. Saturday, May 9, \*\*\* 8:00am — Men's Bible Study...**  
STUDIES IN the Epistle to Titus! (Practicing 'Social Distancing!')

**2. Sunday, May 10 — \*\*\* 9:30am Sunday School:**  
Nursery and Children's classes resume! So, all classes scheduled. (Ladies S.S. will decide later... we will update...)

**3. Sunday, May 10 — \*\*\* 10:45am WORSHIP SERVICE.**  
[SOCIAL DISTANCING] \*\*\***IT'S MOTHER'S DAY! PLEASE HONOR MOMS and grand Moms with the giving of Gideon Bibles!**

**4. TUESDAY, May 12... Ladies Bible Study RESUMES!**  
(Prayer time, 10:30-10:45am) **BIBLE STUDY @ 11am...**  
Continuing studies on Women of the Bible.... (Social Distancing)

**"NUTS-AND-BOLTS" DETAILS AS TO OUR PLANS TO BE READY AND SAFE FOR CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY**

1. We fully own that we have responsibility and care for one another. THEREFORE, we will make careful precautions to help each other be safe... especially, as we meet Church services.

**2. IF YOU ARE SICK... OR if** you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick—WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ATTEND any of our gathered services. [If you have • **Fever**; • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.... **please stay home!**]

3. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such.

**4. WE WILL... and we ask you to practice ‘social distancing’**— 6ft apart... you will be seated at least 6ft apart.... WE ASK AND EXPECT YOU, until further notice, to refrain from hugs and hand-shakes!

Elbow ‘bumps’ allowed...

**5. Our Janitorial Staff will do** their best to keep our buildings and facilities clean and sanitized. Hand soap and sanitizers and tissues are available... in various places in the building.

**6. WE EXPECT THAT EACH OF YOU WILL DO YOUR PART IN personal hygiene. *IF you use the restrooms —please wash your hands with SOAP before leaving... and once outside the bathroom... use nearby SANITIZER.***

**7. DOOR GREETERS...** Arrival: Greeters HOLD DOORS open for incomers... **GREETERS** hold doors open as folks leave.

Each person will pick up their own Sunday Bulletin. **GREETERS:** you will have copies of this 'NUTS and BOLTS' information... in a stack... WHEN FOLKS COME IN... HOLD ONE UP... ASK THEM HAVE THEY SEEN AND READ THIS. **IF THEY HAVE NOT.... Point them to the stack... ask them to pick up a copy and READ IT.....** and you will answer any questions that they may have. Then, they can be directed to the proper S.S. class... or enter the auditorium for worship.

**8. LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD:** When each of you arrive in the auditorium for the WORSHIP SERVICE...**YOU PLACE YOUR OFFERINGS IN THE PLATES....** WHICH will be on the Communion Table and on the FRONT middle Pew... Please DO NOT LEAVE the offerings in the plates before THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

**9. IF YOU BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE... THEY MUST BE AT YOUR SIDE AT ALL TIMES...** THEY ARE NOT TO BE OR TO GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A PARENT AT THEIR SIDE... YOUR CHILDREN MUST NOT HUG ADULTS... ADULTS MUST REFRAIN FROM ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO HUG THEM. (We will re-evaluate this down the way)

*10. As a body of saints in Christ... we will find ourselves at 'different places' and with 'different beliefs about how to respond to the COVID-19 matter. WE MUST GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO EACH OTHER... REGARDLESS!*

**11. Upcoming May Events on Sundays: \*\* May 10-** MOTHER'S DAY!

\* **May 17-** LORD'S SUPPER! \*\* **May 24-** Missionaries Nathan and Rachel Waldock, and children. \*\* **May 31-** ORDINATION SERVICE for Jaden Allen

**FOR THOSE AT HOME on Sunday:** PLEASE CONNECT @ 10:45am to the *LIVE STREAMING* of the worship service. ***You will be notified of the LINK.*** \*\*\* We HAVE a number of sermons/Bible studies recorded and ready for your edification at any time ... OR to be shared with someone in your world: **SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:**

[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org) ... from there you can ALSO connect to our YouTube Channel, Sermon Audio, and many other resources.

***\*\*\* JOYFUL HEART LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD, for ministry through Southside and through MISSIONARIES:***

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

**2. OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @ <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**