

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 31, GIVING UNTO THE LORD IS TO BE A SACRED TIME OF WORSHIP. THEREFORE, WE RETURN TO OUR MEN PASSING THE OFFERING PLATES ... while a hymn is being played.

Volume 45, No. 21, May 26, 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!"***

SOUTHSIDE'S CALLING: TO overcome Darkness and Decay BY BEING SHINING LIGHTS and SAVORY SALT!

STUNNING TRUTH— the reason **Sodom and Gomorrah** were destroyed by fire was ultimately NOT because of their gross sin; but because 10 righteous citizens could not be found! (Genesis 18:20-33)

STUNNING TRUTH— Sodom not only had a strong sexually perverted element in their society, (Genesis 18-19); *they also had a lot of solid, middle class citizens whose lives were simply built around eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building!* (Luke 17:28-30) IN and of ITSELF — there's nothing is wrong with these activities. You sort of have to do them to live on planet earth!

But the problem was that they LIVED FOR these endeavors — much like the Rich Man of Luke 12:16-21... whose 'only' sin was that of living a life of not being 'rich toward God!' **As to the people of Sodom— the FIRE of GOD'S wrath destroyed all the sexually perverted and all the fine materialistic citizens!**

SUPER IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR SOUTHSIDERS:

Have we considered the potential impact of JUST 10 RIGHTEOUS ONES? Will we receive and act upon the reality that the WORD OF JESUS to Christians is all focused upon us being and becoming righteous, holy, pure, loving, forgiving... and BOLD with the Gospel? **That is the truth!**

THEREFORE let US take SPIRITUAL INVENTORY! Let's submit to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit and **move forward in CHRIST-LIKENESS!**

2 Corinthians 13:5 exhorts, ***"Examine yourselves..."*** Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the following SCRIPTURES can help us to **identify, confess, repent, and renounce sins which often hinder** us from being GODLY 'LIGHT HOUSES'... shining forth with Christlikeness!

These questions are given in the spirit of Psalm 139:23-24: ***"Search me, O God and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"***

They are designed to lead us to act upon 1 John 1:9: ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** *Let us meditate slowly through these Scriptures and questions... the Holy Spirit may reveal ADDITIONAL Scriptures and questions for us to consider!*

When our sins are confessed and with the Holy Spirit in control of our lives— [1] We will have a new song and we will freely tell others of Jesus (Psalm 51:1-13); and [2] We will be used to bring the lost to Christ. (Psalm 40:1-3) [3] ***IN CONFESSING OUR SINS, we are agreeing that they are wrong, against God, and got***

to go— "O LORD, I was wrong ... I repent ... THANK YOU for forgiving me ... THANK YOU JESUS!]

1. Matthew 6:12, 14-15 - "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ... for if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses."

Is there anyone against whom I hold a grudge? Anyone I haven't forgiven? Anyone I hate? Anyone I do not love? Are there any misunderstandings that I am unwilling to forget? Is there any person against whom I am harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Anyone I dislike to hear praised or well-spoken of? Do I allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?

2. Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness ..." Is there anything in which I have failed to put God first? Have my decisions been made after my own wisdom and desires rather than by seeking and following God's will? Do any of the following in any way interfere with my surrender and service to God: Ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, or my own plans?

3. Mark 16:15 - "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Have I failed to witness consistently for the Lord Jesus Christ? Has my life failed to show the Lord Jesus to lost people?

4. John 13:35 - "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Am I secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another? Am I guilty of any contention or strife? Do I quarrel, argue, or engage in heated

discussions? Am I a partaker in any division or party spirit? Are there people whom I deliberately slight?

SEEING HOW I TREAT my spouse, in secret, would others believe that I am, indeed, a Christian?

5. Acts 20:35 - " ... ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Have I robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, and/or money? Do I give GENEROUSLY of my income unto the LORD, for God's Kingdom work? Have I failed to support mission work either in prayer or in offerings?

6. 1 Cor. 4:2 - "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." Am I irresponsible so that I cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Am I allowing my emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but doing nothing about it?

7. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Am I in any way careless with your body? Do I fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Am I guilty of intemperance in eating? Do I defile my body via sexual sin? **Do I sexually expose your body by wearing immodest clothing, revealing that I dress to please someone other than JESUS CHRIST?**

8. 1 Cor. 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Do I take the slightest credit for anything good about myself, rather than giving

all the glory to God? Do I talk of what I have done rather than of what Christ has done? Are my statements mainly about "MYSELF"? Are my feelings easily hurt? Have I made a pretense of being something I am not?

9. Eph. 3:20 - " ... him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." Am I self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious?

Do I allow feelings of inferiority to keep me from attempting challenging goals in serving God?

10. Eph. 4:28 - "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needs." Do I underpay? Do I do very little in my work? Have I been careless in the payment of my debts? Have I sought to evade payment of my debts? Do I waste time? Do I waste time for others?

11. Eph. 4:31 - "Let ALL bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you with ALL malice." Do you complain? Do I find fault? Do I have a critical attitude toward any person? Am I irritable or cranky? Do I ever carry hidden anger? Do I get angry? Do I become impatient with others? Am I ever harsh or unkind?

12. Eph. 5:16 - "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Do I listen to unedifying radio or TV programs? Do I read unworthy magazines? Do I partake in worldly amusements? Do I find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source? Am I doing certain things that indicate that I are not satisfied with the Lord Jesus Christ?

13. Eph. 5:20 - "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Have I neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? Have I virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word? Is my spiritual temperature based on my feelings instead of the facts of God's Word?

14. Phil. 1:21 - "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Am I taken up with the cares of this life? Is my conversation primarily about "things" rather than the Lord and His Word? Does anything mean more to me than living for and pleasing Christ?

15. Phil. 2:14 - "Do ALL things without murmurings and disputing." Do I ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone? Do I gossip? Do I speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present? Am I prejudiced against others because of their race, social status, or beliefs?

16. Phil. 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice." Do I carry any bitterness toward God? Have I complained against Him in any way? Have I been dissatisfied with His provision for me? Is there in my heart any unwillingness to obey God fully?

17. Col. 3:9 - "Lie not to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." Do I engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? Do I ever lie? Do I ever exaggerate? Cheat? Steal? Do I overcharge?

18. 11 Tim. 2:22 - "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, -- with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Do I have any personal habits that are not pure? Do I allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in my mind? Do I read that which is impure or suggests

unholy things? Do I indulge in any unclean entertainment? Am I guilty of the lustful look? Do I look at porn?

19. Heb. 10:25 - *"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ..."* Do I whisper or think about other things while God's Word is being read or preached? Am I irregular in attendance at worship services? Do I neglect to attend or participate in prayer meetings? Have I neglected private prayer? Have I neglected God's Word?

Do I find the Bible and prayer uninteresting? Have I neglected thanksgiving at meals? Have I neglected daily family devotions?

20. Heb. 13:17 - *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."* Do I hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? Am I lazy? Do I rebel at requests to help in the work of the Lord? Do I in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

21. James 1:27 - *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this ... to keep ... unspotted from the world."* Have I allowed myself to become "spotted" by the world? Do I spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything? Do I neglect to pray about things that I buy? Are my deeds displeasing to God?

22. James 4:6 - *"God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble."* Do I feel that I am doing quite well as a Christian? That I am not so bad? That I am good enough? Am I stubborn? Do I insist on having my own way? Do I insist on my "rights"?

23. James 4:11 - "*Speak not evil one of another, brethren!*"

Have I dishonored JESUS and hindered His work by criticizing His servants? Have I failed to pray regularly for your pastor/elders or other spiritual leaders? Do I find it hard to be corrected? Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore me? Am I more concerned about what people will think than about what will be pleasing to God?

Conclusion: If you and I have been honest in admitting, confessing our sins, [AND THAT, "They are wrong, against God, not the fault of anyone else; and they 'gotta go!"... AND repenting, turning away from them...] — then GIVE THANKS for God's forgiveness right now. RECEIVE and rest in His forgiveness; and GIVE THANKS that He removes our sins "*as far as the east is from the west*" (Psalm 103:12).

Remember three things:

(1) Every sin is against God so we confess our sins to Him and make things right with Him.

(2) If our sin is also against another person, we must make things right with that person.

(3) If my sin is against a group, make it right with the group.

Don't be afraid to say to God, a business associate, a classmate, a member of your family, a fellow Christian, a Sunday School class, or anyone else against whom you have sinned:

"I was wrong when I said or did _____ - Please forgive me!"

Genuine revival has always started in the hearts of God's people as they have confessed their own sins, allowed the Holy

Spirit to control their lives, and made themselves available for service. [Part of article is edited from Arthur Davenport Associates, Oklahoma City, OK]

Grace and Peace to all in Christ! James Bell

NEWS NOTES:

1. Saturday, May 30, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: Studies in Titus.**

2. Sunday, May 31, * 9:30am Sunday School:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes scheduled.

3. May 31, 10:45am WORSHIP SERVICE. [WE HAVE ABUNDANT SPACE so that 6ft OR more DISTANCING will be EASILY SET UP AND MAINTAINED in the worship hour!

[Please be in prayer and be present... for this very special occasion in the life of Southside, as we ORDAIN Jaden Allen as an Elder/Pastor.]

NOTE: The terms Elder, Bishop, Pastor speak of one and the same person. So, we now have four such men. In the practical reality of things, even though we seldom use the term.... Pastor Bell continues in the role of Lead Pastor or Lead Elder. But the four of us (Cloyd, Dickey, Jaden, and James) desire to serve as a TEAM of servants for Christ's sake and honor; and for the building up of the body of Christ!

**4. WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm— ** Adult Prayer Service
** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service ** Youth Bible Study**

5. JUNE 9 ... Ladies Bible Study! (Prayer time, 10:30-10:45am) BIBLE STUDY @ 11am... studies on Women of the Bible

***** BE SAFE IN MAY:**

1. 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!**]

2. 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.

3. WE continue to encourage 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... you will be seated at least 6ft apart. 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.

4. THIS SUNDAY, MAY 31, GIVING UNTO THE LORD IS TO BE A SACRED TIME OF WORSHIP. THEREFORE, WE RETURN TO OUR MEN PASSING THE OFFERING PLATES ... while a hymn is being played.

5. CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE... THEY ARE NOT TO BE OR TO GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT A PARENT AT THEIR SIDE...

6. 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!

FOR THOSE AT HOME: THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the
worship service for May 24... **SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH**
WEBSITE: www.southsidegallatin.org

****** 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>**