

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 22, June 2, 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!”***

[This week’s article is from Pastor Josh Buice. Where there are additions there will be **[BRACKETS]**. The original article can be found here: <http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/why-im-saddened-by-the-death-of-george-floyd/?fbclid=IwAR3Y2lgaKI06i0pmvfWnWSLWBmu4za9pmYdEOzpKMuaaqKZUzNfm3cOfhIc>]

[Today, in Gallatin, Tennessee, at a place of business, my wife was ‘checking out’ her purchases... and a nice mannered, young American, black, who was taking her order, asked my wife her thoughts about the killing of George Floyd and the events transpiring in the nation since Floyd’s death. She replied: “Well, I very much hate that he was killed and I hate the violence that is going on.”

The young man replied: I don’t want any buildings burnt down; but something has to be done. Peaceful demonstrations are not solving the problems of racism.

At that point, my wife reported, that a fifty-ish, ‘red-neck’ looking white fellow chimed in, “Ya’ll N....s (yes, he used the ‘N’ word) need to learn to respect authority!”

My wife left the young man with this from God’s Word: ***“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” (Proverbs 16:32).... And then she said, “You be one who rules his spirit!”***

Today, in Gallatin, sincere folks... (and pastors in high profile among them) will be doing the ‘token thing’ that is required in circumstances like we have with the murder of George Floyd— speeches, proclamations, gatherings, and marches will be carried out. BUT YOU CAN’T FOOL A THINKING YOUNG BLACK MAN— these things have been done and yet there is no... or little positive change. DEEP SEATED RACISM remains in the minds and hearts of too many white and black Americans. To make progress will require much more than gathers, proclamations, and speeches... we have to do much more than merely GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT we are addressing the problem!

A Georgia pastor has written a very Bible-based article, which exposes the ROOT PROBLEM we have and REVEALS the ONLY TRANSFORMING SOLUTION. The truth he sets forth is not seen by most and when it is given, multitudes reject it. NEVERTHELESS, he / she who has ears to hear— let them hear!

Why I’m Saddened by the Death of George Floyd, *by Josh Buice | May 28, 2020 |*



On May 25th 2013, my wife and I received a troubling phone call informing us that our good friend, Jason Ellis, was murdered. **He was a husband and father of two young boys and he was also a really good police officer in Bardstown, Kentucky.**

In the early hours of the morning as he was making his way home after working the night shift (which he enjoyed), he exited the Bluegrass Parkway on a rural exit ramp where he discovered the road blocked by tree debris in the road.

He stopped his patrol car, walked in front of the vehicle to remove the tree limbs and debris from the road **when he was suddenly ambushed and murdered.** He left behind a loving family, a devastated wife, and two little boys who would never play baseball with their daddy again.

It was a senseless murder of a police officer and it still hurts today as I retell the story. To this day, his murderer has never been found and the case is unsolved. **Seven years later, on May 25th 2020, George Floyd was handcuffed by police officers in Minneapolis and placed face down on the road next to a patrol car.** The images are graphic and the video is unbearable.

Numerous times George Floyd could be heard asking for help—emphatically stating he couldn't breathe. **After approximately eight long minutes** where a police officer, had his knee on the back of Floyd's neck and head, he went unconscious and subsequently died.

[Comment: THIS WAS ALSO ANOTHER SENSELESS MURDER, EXCEPT THAT THIS TIME A MAN WAS MURDERED BY A POLICE OFFICER!]

I can't help but think about Floyd's family as they received a phone call telling them that he was gone. It's a piercing feeling that lingers for days, weeks, months, and years. This feeling is only intensified as they watch the graphic video on national television. As I watched the video this week, I couldn't help but think about Jason Ellis who was murdered by the people he had taken an oath to serve and protect; while George Floyd's life was taken [mercilessly murdered] by an officer who took an oath to serve and protect him. **George Floyd did not receive justice. We live in a culture broken by sin.**

The media and popular celebrities on social media outlets, **[ALONG with politicians!]** are pressing a narrative of racism and police brutality as a result of George Floyd's death.

[Sadly, racism is alive in the hearts of many, regardless of their skin color; and sadly police brutality is alive! And, yes, many politicians and media types are seeking to turn the tragedy into yet another 'BLAME President Trump' gig.]

I think it's foolish to make decisions without proper knowledge and rush to conclusions when all of the information is not available. When we behave that way, we become pawns in the hands of the media and weapons for political gain during an election season. **The fact is, I have no idea if** this officer was motivated by a racist heart. Before we twist the case of George Floyd into a cultural story about white versus black, **perhaps we should focus on what we do know.**

[COMMENT: It is true, we do not know what was going on in the Police Officer's mind. **HOWEVER, Floyd's murder is,** understandably a dangerous fuse far beyond the tragedy itself—

BECAUSE we live in an era of growing racism... coming from multiple skin colors; **and we live in** an era when police forces are being militarized and too many of them are using excessive force; **and we live in** an era of police forces being called upon by politicians to go after GOOD CITIZENS who were not following leftist, political, illegal executive orders; **and in an era** when many fine police officers are being disrespected and their lives dangerously targeted.]

We do know that George Floyd was a man. George Floyd was a human being who was made in the image of God. What we do

know is that whatever motivated the officer, it was not righteousness and justice.

We do know that other officers involved were not white and supported the actions of the officer on the video. We do know that it was wrong.

According to the Bible, there is only one human race (Acts 17:26). Regardless of what our culture continues to press upon us in an attempt to keep ethnic groups divided, there is only one human race made up of many different ethnicities.

Every last one of us can be traced back to Adam — the first created human — the progenitor of the human race. **This officer failed to respect the dignity and value of human life—regardless of George Floyd’s ethnicity.** Regardless of George Floyd’s melanin count— the fact that he was a human being should have prevented the unnecessary force that was used against him on the streets of Minneapolis.

When Cain murdered his own brother Abel, he took the life of his brother. He took the life of another human being who was created in the image and likeness of God. It was a tragic sin. Yet — from that very first sin of Adam that led to Cain’s murder of Abel — a multiplicity of sins have continued to flow through history.

What happened to George Floyd in the streets of Minneapolis can be traced with a straight-line right back to Adam (Rom. 5:12). Cain’s senseless *angry* murder of his brother Abel can likewise be traced to his father’s failure to obey God. One sin opened the gates to hell.

We are not divided by race, like our culture would have us to believe. We are divided by sin and motivated by human depravity. Since all ethnicities can be traced back to one human

being (Adam) and we make up one human race, we're not nearly as different as we might be led to believe. **What divides us is sin.**

When someone is angry and they kill unjustly — as Cain did in the first murder of human history — it's motivated by sin (Genesis 4).

When a police officer uses unnecessary force to perform his duties and it results in the death of a handcuffed unarmed man on the streets of Minneapolis — it's motivated by sin.

When we hear of the death of a police officer who was murdered —like my friend Jason Ellis — we should consider the fact that he was an image bearer *and we should long for justice.*

When we look at the statistics of hundreds of thousands of little babies being murdered through abortion in America — we must remember that those little babies are image bearers of God *and we should speak up for justice.*

When we see a disturbing video of a 20-year old black man beating a 75-year old elderly white man in a nursing home in Detroit— we should consider the fact that he's an image bearer of God *and we should long for justice.*

When we see the reports of Tony Timpa who wailed and pleaded more than 30 times as Dallas police officers held his body to the ground face down until he lost consciousness and died. We should see this as troubling *and we should long for justice.*

When we see reports of an elderly couple gunned down in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, *we should long for justice.*

When we watch the video of George Floyd begging for help and stating that he could not breathe, we should see an image bearer of God — a human being — *and we should long for justice.*

When we see people burning businesses in the streets of Minneapolis as a response of George Floyd's death, *we should see this as adding injustice upon injustice.*

We should not give a license to the general public to create havoc and commit crimes simply because they are grieved over one injustice.

[COMMENT: The reality here, thankfully, is that MOST of the 'general public' do not and would not normally 'create havoc'... that is, riot, steal, and destroy the property of others at times like this. **BUT, sadly some of the 'general public' do yield to the HATE agitation incited by paid haters.** And, sadly, many politicians seek to use these situations to create chaos; and advance their own evil agenda. BUT ALSO... there are many black Americans who are freshly in grief— not because of this one tragedy.... But... it is YET ANOTHER brutal injustice. **]**

When we refuse to speak up about certain cases of injustice because it doesn't fit the cultural agenda of social justice or press the narrative that is most popular, it creates further division and opens the doors for more injustice rather than less. **A couple of years ago as I worked with a group of brothers to draft the *Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel.***

[COMMENT: Here is that excellent statement:

<https://statementonsocialjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SSJG-FINAL.pdf> I signed it and encouraged others to sign it. Even though Pastor Buice is a Southern Baptist pastor— most Southern Baptist DID NOT SIGN it... and at least one Southern Baptist Seminary President FORBADE seminary professors from signing it ... **ALSO, at the 2018 SBC annual meeting...** the following resolution by a seminary professor was REJECTED... when it should have been received: <https://www.wordfoundations.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Lopez-SBC-Resolution.pdf>

The SBC rejection of such clear Biblical truth, (as these two examples set forth), was why our local church totally left the SBC.]

One of the things that motivated us was a lack of understanding regarding justice and a rising confidence in worldly ideologies and philosophies influenced by Karl Marx that emerge from a postmodern deconstructionist agenda. **Article III on Justice reads as follows:**

“WE AFFIRM that since He is holy, righteous, and just, God requires those who bear His image to live justly in the world. This includes showing appropriate respect to every person and giving to each one what he or she is due. We affirm that societies must establish laws to correct injustices that have been imposed through cultural prejudice.”

As a Christian, I’m saddened by the death of George Floyd because I see him as a man — an image bearer of God — who did not receive justice. **As a follower of Christ, I long for the day when** we will see no more unjust actions, no more senseless murders, no more broken families, no more sin, and when May 25th will not be overshadowed by darkness and death.

Until then, we must stand for true justice that finds its source in God—rather than the pages of sinfully motivated books by sociologists and politicians who reject God and refuse to pursue righteousness.

When Job was being rebuked, we find these words “Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert the right” (Job 8:3)? The point is obvious — God always does what is right. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 106:3, “Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!”

We are surrounded by sin and sin lives inside of us all. Righteousness is not always pursued and people do not always execute and keep justice. Obviously as we navigate this sinful road, we know that ultimate justice rests in the hands of God. Our ultimate hope is not James H. Cone or the teachings of *Critical Theory*.

Our ultimate hope is not in political parties and politicians. **Our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ.**

As we walk this broken road and pray for justice to roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24) — **we long for the day when Jesus Christ will return and make all things new.** When there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, no more death, no more injustice (Rev. 21). We need far more than a “Free Hugs” campaign.

We need the gospel. Our faithful Lord will execute justice (Matt. 25:31-46). Finally, God will wipe away every tear from the eyes of his children (Rev. 21:4). Peace will reign on the earth — forever!
(End of Buice’s article)

[FINAL COMMENTS: In Isaiah’s day, Judah was filled with corruption, sin, materialism, immorality, addictions, arrogance, hedonism, and a perversion of justice. Isaiah saw all of that evil; and had as much to say about it! Six times Isaiah pronounced woe on the sin and sinners. He was boldly fulfilling his calling from God and what he said was true! HOWEVER, in chapter six something dramatic happened. ***Isaiah saw the Lord and he saw himself in comparison to God.*** His response BECAME “***Woe is me, for I am undone!***” (Isaiah 6:5)

Isaiah finally understood that BEFORE HE COULD BE OF GOOD USE IN MINISTRY TO A SPIRITUALLY NEEDY NATION— he would need to deal with his own imperfections and problems first!

THIS IS A COMMON ROOT PROBLEM— WE WANT THE SOLUTION, the change, the healing, the revival to start with someone else!

We find it so easy to blame everyone else and to list the nation and/or the church's problems! **IF 'THEY' WOULD CHANGE, THE PROBLEM COULD BE FIXED—** whites are to blame, they must repent and change; blacks are to blame, they must repent and change! EVERYBODY WANTS CHANGE... in others!

In this present hour with the tragedy of the murder of George Floyd and the destructive RIOTS— finger pointing and blaming is on steroids! Again, blacks are blaming whites. Whites are blaming blacks, etc., etc. 'THEY' need to change! They' need to repent!

SUCH talk, screaming, and shouting... only brings on more hate and hinders the only path to radical, positive change.

1. Needed change, transformation will NOT begin with 'them'... it will not begin with government, or with other institutions, or with SEGMENTS of society.

2. Needed change comes only from the power of the GOSPEL of Christ.

(And remember, there are multitudes who are religious, even in the name of Christ, but they are not possessed of CHARACTER TRANSFORMING power: 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

3. Needed change comes only through those who are so transformed by Christ... AND THOSE TRANSFORMED BY JESUS WILL literally LIVE OUT the reality of Romans 12:14-21— they DO NOT respond to evil with evil. They overcome evil with good.

4. Needed change must start with JUST ONE. With me. With you. Just like Isaiah discovered— ***“Woe is me, for I am undone!”***

Grace and Peace to all in Christ! James Bell

NEWS NOTES:

1. Saturday, June 5, * 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: Studies in Titus.**

2. Sunday, June 7, 9:30am Sunday School: Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes scheduled. **10:45am**

WORSHIP!

[WE HAVE ABUNDANT SPACE so that 6ft OR more **DISTANCING** can be **EASILY MAINTAINED** in the worship hour... if that remains your desire! **AGAIN...** our church family is at different places on all the ‘pandemic’ matters... but above all we will continue to go forth respecting and supporting each other; and not judging one another... but living in the light of making applications of truth from Romans, chapter 14!]

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— ** Adult Prayer Service

6:30pm— ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service

6:30pm— ** Youth Bible Study

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

***** UPDATES AS TO CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE *****

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 encourage ‘social distancing’— 6ft apart... BUT MOST OF ALL, WE ENCOURAGE LOVING ONE ANOTHER, RESPECTING EACH OTHER ON MATTERS LIKE THIS... WHERE WE ARE NOT ALL AT THE SAME PLACE IN OUR CONVICTIONS and/or FREEDOM.

4. 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.***

5. REMINDER, GIVING UNTO THE LORD IS TO BE A SACRED TIME OF WORSHIP. THEREFORE, OUR MEN WILL BE PASSING THE OFFERING PLATES ... while a hymn is being played.

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

FOR THOSE AT HOME: THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for June 7... **SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: www.southsidegallatin.org**

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:

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>