

SPECIAL ALERT: [1] Like it or not, here is what is scheduled for January 20th:

"The inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States will mark the commencement of the four-year term of Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice president. [Wikipedia](#) // **Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 //

Location: United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.// **Organized by:** Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

[2] I suspect that many of you are aware of some of the many RUMORS... which set forth various scenarios for the next several days between now and January 20— rumors which relate to whether or not, in the final analysis, Joe Biden or Donald Trump will serve the upcoming 4 year Presidential term.

[3] MY PLEA: STOP SPOUTING RUMORS! STOP LISTENING TO RUMORS. NOT A SINGLE ONE OF US HAS ANY WAY OF KNOWING WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON!

[4] "Regardless of the rumors— these are PERILOUS TIMES... let God's redeemed be HUMBLE and URGENTLY PRAYERFUL!

[5] CHRISTIANS... WE HAVE A GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENT... IT IS EXTREMELY VITAL THAT WE OBEY, CARRY OUT our assignment:

1 Timothy 2:1-3: "... I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in [positions of] high authority, so that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This [kind of praying] is good and acceptable and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior..."

[6]... Be it the uncertainty of the hour... or just the reality that because we live lives SO DEPENDENT upon all the comforts coming from electricity— seek to be all around prepared... as if, for example, a snow storm came and you could not get out for several days.

Volume 46, No. 2, January 12, 2021 / 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!"***

THE PRIORITY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING and ADVANCING THE GOSPEL!

WE LIVE IN A WORLD where the **MULTITUDES** have fallen among the thieves of a multitude of sins; and of an increasing explosion of **GOVERNMENTAL TYRANNY!** **THUS, MANY** are,

(1) Stripped of hope and sanity. **(2) Wounded**— infected with a fallen nature. **(3) Half dead**— that is, possessing living bodies but spiritually they are dead in sin. **(4) And paralyzed with FEAR: Fear of a virus. Fear of the loss of freedom... Fear of economic DESTRUCTION... all coming from many sources.**

BIG QUESTION: In the midst of such a bondage-filled, suffering world— what is my philosophy of life? [We will use the parable of the Good Samaritan, **Luke 10:25-37**] to help us with our question. **LET EACH OF US ASK: Who am I most like?** **1.** The lawyer? **2.** The Priest and the Levite? **3.** The one fallen among thieves? **4.** The Thieves? **5.** The Good Samaritan? **Who am I most like? What is my philosophy of life?** (Let us also ask this as a church— who are WE most like?)

***** THIEVES: "What's yours is mine— I'll take it no matter how it hurts you or others, no matter what God says about it!"**

These are the lawless— they steal and/or they rape, they kill, they live to control, to destroy others. *What's yours is mine. I'm going to take it!* **THEY MAY BE in families, in churches... or... FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THE MEDIA, and/or BIG COMPANIES...**

Also by means of deception, lust, discord, backbiting, tale-baring, slander, gossip, bitterness, revenge and/or envy **many individuals, homes, and/or churches are left Stripped; Beaten; Robbed; Nearly dead.**

***** THE PRIEST and the LEVITE: “What’s mine is mine and I’m not going to share it!”**

The priest and the Levite had opportunity to relieve pain and woe. But, for whatever reason, they passed by. They gave themselves to their worship rituals; but not to ministry to those in need. **What about me, us?**

*****THE GOOD SAMARITAN: “What’s mine is THINE, O LORD! I’ll give to others. Freely I have received; freely I give!”**

The Good Samaritan forgot himself. He forgot his inadequacies and in self-denial he went to the man in need and began to minister. **Compassion sees** hurt, broken hearts, and broken lives. **Compassion** stops, goes to the needy, and starts ministering! **PLEASE NOTE:** Wisdom and grace to bind up wounds and pour in oil came **as the task was being done— not before!**

CONSIDER: As an overflow of loving Jesus it is a part of normal Christian living to focus on ministering to the needs of the stripped, the wounded, and the half-dead. Surely, saints who are walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit will manifest the compassion of Jesus! **JESUS DOES NOT CALL AND EQUIP DISCIPLES SO THAT THEY CAN CONCENTRATE ON ‘HOLY HUDDLES’ AND ‘CHRISTIAN FUN!’** He sends us out to ‘fish’ for the souls of neighbors!

BUT WHO are the stripped, wounded, half-dead neighbors; and where are they? *** Each one of us will find plenty of them on the roads of our lives. If we don’t know any of them and/or if we do not see any of them — **maybe it’s because we’ve passed by on the other side! It’s easy to ‘pass by’**— even in the church house. We gravitate to those we know and they know us. **It happens** in homes. We live in our own little world and pass by on the other side while family members are wounded. **It happens** in our community, neighborhood, and work place. **Why?** Maybe we don’t want to pay the price. Maybe we assume disqualification for service because of feeling inadequate. **Or maybe we no longer believe in the power of the gospel to transform ‘hard’ cases!?**

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES, OVER 10 YEARS OLD, have not gotten better: *** 88 Million people in America are chemically dependent or living with someone who is. *** One out of every 4 families suffers from alcohol/drug related problems. *** There are 37 million food addicts. ***

There are 30 million children of alcoholics. *** 25 to 35 percent of women in America suffer sexual abuse before adulthood.

*****Bottom line: 60 to 75 percent** of all visitors who walk in the doors of a church service in America are battling with some sort of dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions. **This is our mission field! (And what are the percentages for the members?)** The mission field is often right in the membership!

HOW SHOULD CHURCHES, HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RESPOND? By actions, body language, and sometimes even by words many church folk are in reality saying— “I go to church. I believe in Jesus but I beg thee have me excused! I AM NOT QUALIFIED to minister to the hurting masses!”

In similar fashion many PASTORS say, “We believe in Jesus. We worship Jesus. We sing His praises. We serve the LORD— HOWEVER, **we are not qualified... NOR do we have time** to minister to the enslaved masses after the fashion of the Good Samaritan. THEREFORE, we send all of the enslaved masses to Psychiatrists, etc.”

FURTHER REALITY: MANY pastors feel compelled to focus on laboring to increase attendance, financial giving, and baptisms (Mere baptisms; NOT DISCIPLES OF JESUS!); and that they must use creativity to keep the crowd coming back for more exciting ‘Christian entertainment’ **sprinkled with lite** Bible preaching.

*Nevertheless: 60 to 75 percent of all visitors who walk in the doors of a church service in America are battling with some sort of dysfunctional family problem and/or addiction. **This is our mission field!***

Do we have any MISSIONARIES WITH GOOD NEWS for the masses of sin/satan slaves of Gallatin and Sumner County?

WHAT SHALL WE SAY ABOUT THESE THINGS?

1. Foremost, let us debunk a deep seated deception! The Deception is that our world, our mission field is different than the ones of the New Testament era.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH: *Our mission field is not, at the core, different from mission fields in any era of time! The ROOT problem has been and still is*

that all lost people are DEAD in sin and only the POWER OF GOD can raise them to LIFE! **Every human, until or unless they are made ALIVE in Christ Jesus are** (1) dead in sin; (2) walking according to the course of this world; (3) walking according to the dictates of satan who works in the lost; (4) walking in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; (5) and are by nature children of wrath, under the wrath of God! (Eph. 2:1-3)

2. The Gospel of Christ is sufficient to handle even the most difficult cases. For example, the residents of Corinth were steeped in all manner of, (what we would call), dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions. **Using God's descriptions, here is a sampling of the deep lifestyles of bondage from which the founding members of the Church at Corinth were delivered— simply by the gospel of Christ!**

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived (misled):** neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.*

And such some of you were [once]. But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), **and** you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), **and** you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.” (1 Cor. 6:9-11, Amplified Bible)

QUESTION: In 2021, has the gospel of Jesus Christ lost its power? OR have we abandoned the gospel and settled for a poor substitute?

QUESTION: What will happen with any Bible believing congregation **who stops** grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit **and who starts** welcoming and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Answer: We will have testimonies and lifestyles like those of New Testament Christians!

I. We will embrace Paul's confession of Rom. 1:14-16:

“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

II. When the gospel of God’s amazing, saving grace invades a life there will be Acts 2:36-47 experiences/realities/miracles/changes:

1. Acts 2:36-37— there will be CONVICTION (Also see, John 16:8-11) and a growing realization that it was not merely the Jews or the Romans who crucified Christ— ***“No, O God, it was I!”***

2. Acts 2: 38-41— there will be REPENTANCE and FAITH brought on by a supernatural work of the calling of God. (Paul summed up his gospel preaching: Acts 20:19-21— “repentance toward God and faith toward our LORD JESUS CHRIST!”) This ‘repentance and faith’ is expressed in **a glad receiving** of the convicting Word of God **and a public identification** with Christ in ‘death/burial/resurrection’ in the waters of baptism.

3. Acts 2:42-47— there will be LIFESTYLE TRANSFORMATION by the gospel! Because the Holy Spirit now INDWELLS the newborn redeemed, many NEW THINGS become STANDARD for all those who are truly saved!

2 Corinthians 5:17— *Therefore if any person is [engrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! (Amplified)*

Notice the Characteristics of being a New Creation in Christ Jesus, Acts 2:42-47:

a. Continual devotion to the study of the Word of God. **b. Learning the doctrines** of the Word of God and having **fellowship** with other believers. **c. Partaking of** the LORD’S SUPPER. **d. Prayer with** other believers. **e. Reverential fear** of God.

f. Sharing possessions with one another so that no one is left ‘out in the cold.’ **g. Sharing meals with** other saints in Christ with gladness and joy. **h. Praising** God. **i. Having respect from neighbors** who are, doubtless, impressed by the new supernatural lifestyle of the believers. **j. Into such an environment, God adds more believers!**

NOTE: To the extent that true saints in Christ are **not** living in the reality of **Acts 2:36-47 Christianity**— we are grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit. **Therefore**, let us be broken and repent. Let the redeemed follow in the steps of the new born redeemed of Acts 2:36-47!

4. When the gospel of God's amazing, saving grace invades a life, (Galatians 2:20; 5:18-23; 6:14), there will be CRUCIFIXION! (Romans 6:14-23; Rom. 8:7-16)

THEREFORE: When a non-Christian or a Believer sees us out in daily life and/or walks into our Sunday School Classes or a Sunday Worship Service— **They should witness people** who are crucified to sin and self and a people who are risen in Christ, free and led in accordance with Galatians 2:20; 5:18-23; 6:14; Rom. 6:14-23; 8:7-16.

THEY SHOULD WITNESS a people who have and manifest love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. **They should witness a people** of holiness, love and forgiveness! These are all divine realities, divine grace transformations GIVEN to every born again Christian and INDWELLING every born again Christian! **AND WHAT GOD HAS PUT IN US, WE MUST WORK OUT!** (*Phil. 2:12-13*) They should witness A PEOPLE TAKEN UP WITH THE WORD OF GOD AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD: Neh. 8:1-6; Rev. 19:1-6; Col 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

III. When the gospel of God's amazing, saving grace invades a life and we are in tune with the Holy Spirit there will be a TESTIFYING OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR OUR SOUL!

Psalm 22:22, 25— I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation:** I will pay my vows before them that fear him. **Psalm 35:18**— I will give thee thanks **in the great congregation:** I will praise thee among much people. **Psalm 66:16**— Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And ***I will declare what He has done for my soul.*** **Psalm 107**— Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,** Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy...

IMAGINE THE IMPACT that *THE FOLLOWING PRACTICE WILL MAKE!*

1. While we may chat a little about the weather, work or ‘the game’— the highlight of our conversation, (before Sunday School, between Sunday School and the Worship hour, after the worship hour and during lunch) will be something like this:

“This week... or today... or from Daily Bible reading, or from the Sunday School lesson or from the preached Word of God, etc... GOD SPOKE TO ME through His WORD!” “God spoke to me today **convicting me of_____!** God spoke to me today **encouraging me with _____!** God spoke to me today **instructing me about_____!** God spoke to me today **rebuking/correcting me of _____”**

OR: “GOD SPOKE TO ME TODAY and brought me **from death to life!** Praise God I am now saved!”

CAREFUL NOTE: We have famous so called 'Bible Teachers' and others going around... and they are often speaking of something 'GOD TOLD THEM'-- but what they are claiming is direct revelation from God... other than what the Bible actually says. Above, we are only speaking of prayerfully receiving the pure Word of God and then applying it to our lives. This is a valid use of the phrase 'God spoke to me...."

2. In other words, when we READ/STUDY the Word of God and/or when we participate in a group Bible Study and/or when we sit under the sound of the preaching of the Word of God— we must be asking ourselves questions like—

Is there a sin to confess? Are there promises to claim? Are there commands of God to obey? Are there examples to follow? Is there error to avoid?

Is there truth to believe? Is there PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to give to God?

3. And then, we TESTIFY in the midst of the Congregation: Psalm 35:18— I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. Ps. 66:16— Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul.

THINK OF THE IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION! UNLESS WE ARE CONTENT TO JUST 'PLAY CHURCH', THIS WILL BE AN EXCITING, EVERY SUNDAY EVENT!

IV. WHEN A VISITOR WALKS INTO ONE OF OUR S.S. CLASSES AND/OR WORSHIP SERVICES... OR INTO OUR HOMES they should witness A CONGREGATION OF MINISTERS, SERVANTS OF CHRIST WHO ARE ALL SIGNIFICANTLY INVOLVED, 'ADDICTED' TO TRUE CHURCH WORK! (1 Cor. 12:7- 13:8)

And Jesus is saying: *"If a man [woman, youth, child] love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:** and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."* (John 14:23-24)

Grace to each one in Christ!

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NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!* (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, JANUARY 26, 11:00am:
Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAY— JANUARY 17, 2021

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am! LORD'S SUPPER,** at end of Morning Worship; and **HOME GROUPS,** in the evening.

Additional Sunday Events for January 2021:

1. January 24, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP...

NEW STUDY: What do you do when you lose your job? When your spouse betrays you? When the news of the world causes great anxiety? All of us deal with different difficult problems. The question is, how will we respond?

In this series, Dr. R. C. Sproul offers wise biblical counsel to help us as we face life's difficulties, pointing us to the sovereignty of God and the sufficiency of Christ.

2. January 31, 5:00pm-FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD; AND... a message from the Word, from Luke Haskins!

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service

***** HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

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; **or 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. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

ADDED NOTE: *In addition to carefulness, and good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITIMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.*

3. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING— No unsupervised Children!

*******FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service of January 17... GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org [You can also connect to our YouTube page for past messages & Bible Studies!]**

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:

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

OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING:

[**https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online**](https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online)