

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 6, February 9, 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!"***

BASICS for SOUTHSIDE as a New Testament

Church! Part 2

[Same introduction as last week... please do not skip!]

The 1960 Pro-football season ended with Green Bay squandering the lead, to lose to the Philadelphia Eagles. In 1961, the Green Bay Packers team arrived in training camp to begin preparations for a new season. They were filled with confidence. They were seasoned professionals. They would simply need to play smarter... put in some new plays, etc. HOWEVER, VINCE LOMBARDI took a different approach— he began the training camp, starting from scratch... literally holding up a football in his hand, he said: **"GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A FOOTBALL!"**

David Marannis, in *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi*, wrote: "Lombardi understood the importance of the fundamentals — not just of a sport, but in any endeavor. We all have a tendency to be attracted to "shiny new things." The 1961 Packers team members thought that the key to winning the championship would be found in new plays and game strategies — shiny new things. But Lombardi knew that if they didn't have the fundamentals down pat that all the new things wouldn't help them win a Super Bowl.

THIS ARTICLE [Part 1 & 2] FOR SOUTHSIDE, DOES NOT SET FORTH 'SHINY NEW THINGS'! INSTEAD, it sets forth Biblical concepts which are important to a Biblical vision of a New Testament Church!

TO STRENGTHEN Southside in being and developing as a genuine expression of the Body of Christ in Gallatin and Sumner County, Tennessee

— let us **PRESS FORWARD** in the following **Biblical paths!** [SEE last week's Newsletter for the first 12 Biblical Concepts!]

13. DISCIPLESHIP: The mission of the church is clear: *“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* ^[b]Amen. (Matt. 28:19-20) **NOTE: This is exactly what took place in Acts 2:22-47.**

TRAGICALLY, many in the modern church glory in ‘professions of faith’ and numbers of ‘baptisms’ which garner the praise of men— BUT WHERE O WHERE ARE THE DISCIPLES?

TRAGIC REALITY: About 73% of Americans claim to be Christians! HOWEVER, only about 31% attend worship services, as much as once a month. AND George Barna’s research shows *“that only 17% of ‘Christians’ who consider their faith important and attend church regularly **ACTUALLY HAVE A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!**”*

In other words, when decisions or choices are to be made— only about 17% of those who regularly attend worship services will have beliefs and make decisions based on **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES!**

WHAT IS THE ROOT PROBLEM BEHIND THIS TRAGEDY? — Faulty evangelism methods which **SKIP CONVICTION OF SIN and REPENTANCE!** (Acts 2:22-24, 36-38)

IN a related matter, discipleship in a body of believers is not the exclusive responsibility of pastors. Indeed, the primary privilege of

this process lies with the assembly of saints: (Meditate upon **Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:13-26**) Christian Fellowship and Discipleship takes place in Sunday School Classes, Ladies Bible Studies, Saturday Men's meetings, Home Groups; and in HOMES AS PARENTS raise their children in the NURTURE and ADMONITION OF THE LORD! PARENTS ARE GOD'S ORDAINED 'YOUTH DIRECTORS!'

MOREOVER, the Holy Spirit motivates and directs saints in service, ministry, work, and worship. **There are opportunities in our church services for the whole body to participate—** not only in congregational singing, receiving the Word of God, and giving; but also in giving testimonies and praises unto the LORD; and in helping one another to grow in Grace! We must carefully embrace the call not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit; but, rather, to be being filled with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit led congregational services will manifest PRAISE to God and embrace and act upon TRUTH from God. This is the holy atmosphere of Biblical discipleship!

14. Elders and Deacons: EVERY MEMBER is to be a minister, a servant. Some are set forth as EXAMPLES/Servant-Leaders before the congregation. **Deacons** are examples of servants, they model serving in many ways. **The function of pastors/elders is to serve as "Player-Coaches" of the Congregation.** A primary function is to EQUIP THE MEMBERS for their God-Appointed ministries, so that the whole body will be built up in love and Christ-likeness. (Eph. 4:11-16)

Pastors/Bishops/Elders, are a team of God-called, God-ordained men who, under Christ, are called to shepherd the local church.

LET US at all times DILIGENTLY seek the LORD and trust Him for the raising up of additional men, from within the local congregation.

REALITY: It is common for churches to come to a time when the pastor or lead Elder dies or leaves for whatever reason. Then, usually, the church starts from ground zero and seeks a pastor. They find one from somewhere and a new era starts with hope and excitement, but usually conflict and ‘divorce’ quickly follow. Why? Strangers ‘married’ and woke up a few months later to many SURPRISES!

HERE IS A BETTER MODEL TO EMBRACE:

With plurality of ELDERSHIP we have the opportunity to have a ‘seamless’ transition from one ‘LEAD’ pastor/elder to another.

EXAMPLE: We cry out to God to show us, to lead us to additional pastor/elders who will labor alongside the current Elders and the Lead Pastor/Elder. The younger are mentored by the older, (and by one another as Elders) as they function as a team.

AS TIME MOVES FORWARD... and there is a NEED for a new full-time Servant, Leader Pastor/Elder— there should be a seamless transition where by one of the present, (hopefully, younger) elders becomes the lead pastor. The older still might continue to serve for many years, but would be more and more in a roll of support and not in leading; and where by all of the Elders continue as a TEAM, without disruption.

16. The local church and the Home are two Divine institutions. They should not compete but complete and complement one another. The Church should BUILD UP families. **Strong, Godly families are vital for a vibrant Congregation.** God holds

parents to be primarily responsible for the training and discipling of children. The Church has a roll of support.

THE FAMILY: Our modern society has unleashed serious opposition to the Christian family. **To make the Christian family a priority is to** teach husbands to love and lead their wives (Eph. 5:25); wives to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), and children to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1), and parents to train their children in the ways of the LORD (Eph. 6:4). **THEREFORE: We seek** to build up families! **We seek** to provide a haven for single parents by surrounding them with godly families. **We seek** to empower and supplement parents through Biblical teaching/preaching, weekly Grow in Grace Newsletters, **Sunday School classes, Biblical discipleship, Biblical counseling, etc.**

17. A local church is A BODY of believers. Even as the MEMBERS of our human bodies are COMMITTED to ONE BODY and thus empowered TOGETHER to minister to OTHERS, even so it is in the church at Southside. We must make forward steps in this Biblical pattern.

A SERVANT'S ATMOSPHERE: Where the Word of God is taught and saints are growing there will be people serving. **Southside emphasizes everyone's responsibility for involvement and mutual ministry.**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45). "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh; but through love serve one another." (Gal. 5:13) **We seek to be a congregation of servants for Christ.***

18. A HIGH VIEW OF GOD: Jeremiah 9:23 & 24 states that the greatest quest in life worth boasting about is the quest of knowing God. We must have a PASSION to grow in Biblical knowledge of and fellowship with the True and Living God.

19. WORSHIP and PRAISE: The congregation's highest priority and privilege is worship. Psalm 2:11 declares, "*...Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.*" The modern trend today finds churches seeking to please congregations in whatever style of music they like. The world loves rock, rap, hip-hop, country, etc. Thus, many modern church services are more and more filled with 'Christianized' versions of people's secular loves and tastes.

However, true Christian Worship is God-centered, not man-centered. God is worthy that we should Praise Him! Worship is for God and not for our carnal pleasure. Christian music should not be a mimic of the world. **At Southside, we love the great hymns of the faith because they are God-focused and God-glorifying!** We also appreciate modern Christian songs, praise music, Scripture songs, etc., so long as the words are God-honoring and the accompanying music matches those words instead of sounding like the world.

20. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is critical. Upon Spiritual birth, all Christians are 'FLOODED' with the love of God by the Holy Spirit, Romans 5:5; and baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, (1 Cor. 12:13). We are commanded to be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit, (Eph 5:18; Col. 3:16); and we are warned not to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit, (1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30). God has given various gifts of the Holy Spirit, as it pleases Him, (1 Cor. 12:1-33; Rom. 12:1-9; Eph. 4:11-16)

Note: There is nothing in the New Testament that equates any of the gifts as giving a high level of spirituality or power with God.

The great need is for Christians to be being filled with the Holy Spirit, overflowing with abundant evidence of the nine-fold fruit of the Holy Spirit! (Gal. 5:21-24)

21. Serious attention must be given to make sure that Southside Church remains both united and pure. As a part of this process, prayerful and humble application of Biblical Standards concerning Church Discipline need to be applied. **We must maintain a willingness to implement CHURCH DISCIPLINE.** The name of Christ will be honored and the purity of the church will be maintained only when the members of the church are willing to obey God in their commitment to lovingly and in humility of heart, confront one another:

*** *"And if your brother sins, Go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."* (Matt. 18:15) ***
"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Gal. 6:1) *** *1 Corinthians 5:1-13*

22. Forgiveness is both a great virtue and the key to genuine unity in the church and/or in our homes! When we forgive each other, we tear down the barriers that are built up through sin. As Christians we are to *"Forgive each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."* (Eph. 4:12). Based upon the fact that we have received the forgiveness of God in Christ, we are to offer forgiveness to others.

23. AS A CHURCH WE MUST BE COMMITTED TO A LIFE OF PRAYER: Since only God can do the work of God, then we must pray. The Temple of Jesus is still to be a Temple of Prayer. Private, individual prayer and Church-wide prayer must be a priority!

At Southside, we are committed to be and to be becoming an authentic church! We will never arrive! We will always be in process. WITH OUR EYES ON JESUS, we will to go forward. If ever we put our eyes on man — any man — we will fragment.

Does going forward in the practice of these Biblical concepts mean that we will be free of problems?

No! — Because people = potential problems! To go forward, we must face and deal with problems in a loving, solution-oriented, Christian manner. [Note: Much of these 2 Newsletters was drawn from 16 Tests of an AUTHENTIC New Testament Church...]

I am honored to serve in your midst!

Grace to all! James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org

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, February 23, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAYS, February 14, 21, 28

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

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events for FEBRUARY 2021:

1. **February 14, 5:00pm-6:30 pm**- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.
2. **February 21, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.**
3. **February 28, 5:00pm-6:00pm**- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... Dealing with Difficult Problems, videos by R.C. Sproul

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... 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 February 14 ... 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>