

**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 8, February 23, 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!"***

LET US WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR WHOLE HEART!

A Biblically based worship service is not designed to attract crowds by means of appealing to their carnal desires and tastes— rather, is an opportunity for saints to worship God in spirit and in truth. The entire service is to be WORSHIP unto the LORD— be it while singing; and/or praying unto the LORD; or WHILE receiving the preached/taught WORD OF GOD!

As a Church Family we gather to worship God— that is, to ascribe worth to God; **to prostrate** ourselves before God in loving submission; **to offer** unto Him honor, praise, and adoration; **to** recognize God's glory, greatness, power, majesty, and rule.

And it means that we offer ourselves to Him as His servants! Genuine worshipers have this concern: "Did God receive my whole hearted praise, adoration? **Did He receive** from me offerings of repentance, submission, and fresh obedience?"

Quotes from unknown sources:

“WORSHIP IS the overflow of a grateful heart to God for His greatness and goodness. **WORSHIP IS** the occupation of the heart — not with needs or blessings, but with GOD HIMSELF. **WORSHIP IS** the uprising of a heart that knows *God the Father* as the Great Giver; *God the Son* as the Great Shepherd; and *God the Holy Spirit* as the Indwelling resident in and President over our daily lives. **WORSHIP IS** adoring contemplation of God Himself, as He has revealed Himself in Christ and in the Word of God.”

[OBVIOUSLY our conception of God will greatly influence our worship: Books by A.W. Tozer, Arthur Pink, and J.I. Packer on the study of the Attributes of God will help motivate worship!]

IN ADDITION, the true worship to God **is NOT LIMITED to a congregational worship; but is done in daily life** as we respond to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit with **the grand note of worship: “AMEN, SO BE IT LORD—**

I GIVE THANKS and PRAISE YOU!

I embrace Thy will,

I surrender, submit, yield, and bow to Thee!

I choose to forgive. I choose to love, to be kind, etc.

I FLEE SIN!”

In other words, GOD SPEAKS: WE BOW, OBEY, and proclaim, “Be it unto me according to Thy Word!” That’s the ‘AMEN!’ of genuine worship. Christian worship is about what God receives, rather than about what we get!

THE OVERFLOWING MIRACLE OF GENUINE WORSHIP: When those who worship God in daily life show up for a congregational

worship service with fellow saints— No one has to artificially prime the ‘worship pump!’ When we are true worshipers of God in daily life— GENUINE EXCITEMENT, THE JOY OF THE LORD, AWESOME PRAISE, and FRESH FAITH/OBEDIENCE WILL COME FORTH in the congregational Worship!

THE RESULT OF GENUINE WORSHIP IS THAT,

[1] We go forth into the world living lives of love, purity, compassion, forgiveness, joy, peace and more.

[2] We go forth on mission to make Christ visible and known to the lost world around us.

[3] AND when we adapt ourselves to Him and to His revealed will in worship, we will receive what we truly need from worship— namely, **** JOY IN GOD! ** Renewed power** to win daily spiritual battles! **** Fresh boldness** as witnesses for Christ!

[4]... AND AS WE WORSHIP, we also have opportunity to MAKE A GODLY IMPACT on others.

This past SUNDAY, as we began our worship service... across the street a young man was CLEARING OFF SNOW from the Public School drive ways and parking areas.

HE HEARD US SINGING praise to God. He stopped and spent his lunch break listening to the Word of God, during our worship service!

THOSE LISTENING/WATCHING our Live Stream worship service— what an opportunity for others, far and wide, to see and hear us worshipping the LORD!

Biblical EXPRESSIONS in the Corporate Worship of God!

***** 1. During a Worship Service it is a good thing** for the congregation to freely and expressively say, "**AMEN!**" **By this we are saying "Yes!" to God! "So be it LORD!"** ******* *Nehemiah 8:6*— "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, **and all the people** answered, **AMEN, AMEN...**" ******* *Psalm 106:48*— "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and **let all the people** say, **AMEN, PRAISE YE THE LORD!**" ******* *Revelation 7:9-12*— All those in heaven are worshipping God and saying, "**AMEN!** Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, BE UNTO OUR GOD forever and ever. **AMEN!**"

***** 2. The IMPORTANCE of preaching/teaching the Word of God.** In Nehemiah 8 we find the people demanding that Ezra the scribe **bring the Book of the Law** to the assembly. Ezra and his colleagues stand on a raised platform and **read from the Book**. When he opens the Book to read, the assembly rises to its feet in honor of the Word of God and their response to the reading is to answer, "**Amen, Amen!**"

Interestingly, the text explains that Ezra and those assisting him "read from the Book, from the Law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading" (Neh. 8:8). **Once the text was read, it was carefully explained to the congregation.**

Ezra did not stage an event or orchestrate a spectacle— he simply and carefully proclaimed the word of God. This text is a sobering indictment of much contemporary Christianity. **According to the text, a demand for biblical preaching erupted within the**

hearts of the people. They gathered as a congregation and summoned the preacher. This reflects an intense hunger and thirst for the preaching of the Word of God.

QUESTION: ***WILL YOU and I ARRIVE at worship services this coming LORD'S DAY with that same sort of desire?***

3. During a Worship Service it is a good thing for the congregation to freely and expressively SING and/or SAY PRAISE! *** ***Psalm 95:1***— "O come, let US **sing** unto the LORD. **Let US** make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." *** ***Ephesians 5:19***— "**Speaking to YOURSELVES** in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the LORD!"

4. During a Worship Service it is a good thing, at times, for a congregation to stand, and/or to kneel, and/or to bow, etc. Various physical postures may convey gratitude, reverence, submission, humility, and/or dependence, etc. **It is true that mere physical actions can become mechanical and/or hypocritical.** Indeed, we must come to God in worship with right heart attitudes. Among those right attitudes is a submissive, godly embracing of Biblical expressions in worship, such as these ones of which we are speaking. *** **The fact that there are** those who 'get in the flesh' and just put on a show, rather than truly worship God— **THESE NEGATIVE REALITIES DO NOT GIVE US LIBERTY TO IGNORE OR REJECT BIBLICAL PATTERNS!**

5. During a Worship Service it is a good thing for our hearts and hands to blend in worship to God. "Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, **as I lift MY HANDS** toward your most holy place." (Psalm 28:2) "The LORD is my strength and my shield;

My HEART trusteth in Him, and I am helped. MY HEART leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song." (Psalm 28:7)

*** **EXTENDED HANDS** reveal the worshipper in a posture of faith, looking to God for mercy and grace. (Psalm 88:9b)

*** **LIFTED UP HANDS** are also in the context of praise to God for his greatness. "Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD... **LIFT UP YOUR HANDS** in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD!" (Psalm 134:1-2) "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

And all the people answered, **AMEN, AMEN, with LIFTING UP THEIR HANDS**, and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground." (Neh. 8:6)

God inspired Paul to write: "I will therefore that men **PRAY everywhere, LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS**, without wrath and doubting." (1 Tim 2:8)

The focus of true worship is all on God! It's all focused on God's Word which points us in the paths of being RIGHT WITH GOD.

And, prominent throughout Scripture is the worship response of AMEN! ... that is, "So be it LORD!" The book of **Acts** gives us a clear worship scene from the New Testament Church: **Acts 2** (Emphasis is added) ⁴¹ "Then they that **gladly** received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴² **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... Praising God**, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Here we see that true New Testament worship is, again, all about God and His agenda!

NOTE: There was/is no need to seek to motivate by appealing to the carnal flesh. **For with new hearts**, new Christians have an awesome **indwelling compelling** for sitting at the feet of Jesus in the Word of God! They are drawn to fellowship with other believers, and drawn to worship at the LORD'S TABLE, and drawn to prayer with other saints, and drawn to ministries of doing good one to another. In other words, they are led by the Holy Spirit! (Romans 8:14)

ONE OF THE WORSHIP scenes from the Revelation. Revelation 19 (Emphasis is added) ¹ “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God:** ² For true and righteous are his judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**”

What IS Clear from all these Various Scriptures?

(1) WE SEE the total **GOD FOCUS** of true, Holy Spirit led worship. **Therefore, the preaching of the Holy Spirit breathed out Word of God is prominent!**

(2) WE SEE the emotion, intensity, and VERBAL nature of true, Holy Spirit led worship; Plus, Various POSTURES are used in true

worship— Kneeling, Standing, Bowing, and the LIFTING UP OF HANDS.

(3) WE SEE THAT in Holy Spirit led worship, WORDS of praise RESPONSES are predominant— **AMEN! HALLEUJAH! SO LET IT BE!**

THE GREAT NEED OF THE HOUR: We must focus on God in our worship, rather than the satisfaction of our personal desires, likes, or needs.

God is sovereign in worship; we are not. Our concern must be for God’s kingdom, not our own empires, popularity, or success.”

A REVIVAL OF GENUINE WORSHIP in our Southside church gatherings must be deeply rooted in ** Scripture alone (**sola Scriptura**), ** Grace alone (**sola gratia**), ** Christ alone (**solus Christus**),** Faith alone (**sola fide**), and ** Glory to God alone (**solus Deo Gloria**).

BELOVED! LET US GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD!

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, March 9, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAY, February 28 * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

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

Additional Sunday Event 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.

NOTE: In addition to carefulness, 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.*

*****FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE *LIVE STREAMING FOR February 21* OR to connect with our YouTube page, **GO TO:** www.southsidegallatin.org**

******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>

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