

AS A CHRISTIAN, I AM CALLED TO GIVE JESUS CHRIST NUMBER ONE PRIORITY! THEREFORE, IN RESPONSE to the sacrificial love of JESUS CHRIST, I CANCEL and/or I WILL ALLOW NO OTHER PLANS SO THAT I CAN ASSEMBLE WITH FELLOW SAINTS at the following appointed times!

[1] April 4, RESURRECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021: (1) Sunday School @ 9:30am; (2) Worship @ 10:45am, (INCLUDING THE LORD'S SUPPER), FOLLOWED by Fellowship Meal.

[2] April 11, REGULAR services

[3] April 18, REGULAR services ... INCLUDING LORD'S SUPPER

[4] April 25, REGULAR services.



Volume 46, No. 13, March 30, 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 CROSS and the RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!

"The resurrection of Christ is the MOST IMPORTANT article of our faith, and without it the hope of eternal life is extinguished!" This is a widely accepted QUOTE, which is attributed to various famous and respected Pastors! WELL, WE

MUST MEASURE the quote by THE WORD OF GOD— not by the one being quoted!

CONSIDER THIS: YES! The Resurrection of Christ shows that the sacrifice of Christ for sin was sufficient, satisfactory, and accepted by God the Father. **YES!** THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST was and is *THE FATHER'S, "AMEN!" to THE SON'S, "IT IS FINISHED!"* CLEARLY, the Resurrection is absolutely VITAL! (1 Cor. 15) **YES! IT IS TRUE THAT** "... without THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS the hope of eternal life is extinguished!" (Meditate upon 1 Corinthians 15!!)

HOWEVER, IF Jesus HAD FAILED to make sufficient PROPITIATION, there would have been no resurrection! THUS, *JESUS specifically calls us to remember Him and His sacrifice, HIS DEATH, at the LORD'S TABLE!* MOREOVER, the Holy Spirit DID NOT move Paul to write— "God forbid that I should glory, save in the resurrection!" BUT RATHER, the HOLY SPIRIT PROCLAIMS through the Apostle Paul— "**GOD FORBID THAT I should glory, SAVE IN THE CROSS!!** (Gal. 6:14)

CONSIDER: Since in the Word of God, THE CROSS and the RESURRECTION are VITAL realities of the one true gospel— LET US BE IN AWE AND WONDER OF BOTH! INDEED, this is EXACTLY what takes place at the LORD'S SUPPER! For although the FOCUS at the LORD'S TABLE is on the sacrificial, substitutionary DEATH of Jesus for His redeemed— HIS RESURRECTION, HIS ASCENSION, HIS RULING FROM HEAVEN, and HIS SECOND COMING are all clearly implied, for we are to celebrate the LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COMES BACK! (1 Cor. 11:26)

CONSIDERING THE SUPREME IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENT THAT IS BEING CELEBRATED, SURELY WE MUST LOOK TO THE WORD OF GOD AS TO BIBLICAL REVELATION ON HOW TO CELEBRATE!

[SPECIAL NOTE AND REMINDER: YOU and I must PERSONALLY JUDGE ALL MATTERS OF FAITH BY THE SCRIPTURES... each functioning as 'BELIEVER PRIESTS'... each indwelt with the MASTER TEACHER, the Holy Spirit!]

Here is clear reality: When it comes to celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ— **New Testament Christians simply obeyed Jesus and celebrated the New Testament Passover or LORD'S SUPPER!** (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

THE WORD OF GOD REVEALS that the LORD'S SUPPER has a singular FOCUS— Christ's DEATH, with His resurrection and second coming clearly implied! THE LORD'S SUPPER is profound beyond words to describe! However, there is no POMP, no grand ceremonies— just the simplicity of a piece of bread and wine, or juice.

WHAT WE FIND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: New Testament Christians DID NOT remember or celebrate Christ's death and/or resurrection by ANY of the following man-made traditions—

Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, Service of Darkness, or Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday!

None of these are in or from the Bible! No Christian observed them.

EVEN SO, TODAY, there is wide-spread and DEEP loyalty to some or all of the above. For after all, "We are in the New

Covenant era! We are free to worship as we please; and you, sir, are just a legalist for not getting on board!" O THE POWER OF RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, which MANY insist must be added to the Word of God! [Adam and Eve were the first to be DISCONTENTED with and added to the Word of God! ISRAEL TRIED IT ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION... In Exodus 32, Aaron helped them build a golden god and worship the LORD!]

REALITY: Whenever the world wants to get their point across or promote their product, they spend mega-bucks. They put on a Big Show and DAZZLE the physical senses. SADLY, ALL TOO OFTEN, Christian Religion follows in that train as they seek to build impressive earthly kingdoms. **THUS, at Christendom's grand calendar moments of Christmas and Easter, she is on dazzling display IN UTTER DISREGARD of the New Testament.** STUNNINGLY, 'BIBLE BELIEVING' CHRISTIANS blindly bow to culture, following the lead of their finest preachers.

NEVERTHELESS, JESUS STILL CALLS HIS CHURCH to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words: "...This do In Remembrance of Me!"

GLORIOUSLY, (AND UNLIKE THE WORLD'S RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS), the LORD'S SUPPER is equally within the reach of the poor and the rich, the educated and the uneducated, the famous and the forgotten.

I PLEAD WITH ONE AND ALL: LET US 'MAKE MUCH OF' THE CRUCIFIED, RISEN, ASCENDED, SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER, RETURNING, LAMB OF GOD!

WITHOUT any artificial enticements or inducements, the pure Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit are ready to carry us to the most ultimate heights of wonder and awe as we come to the LORD'S TABLE!

WHY SHOULD I, as a CHRISTIAN, COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE? Christ commands me to come! With this command, QUICKENED BY THE WORD OF GOD and the HOLY SPIRIT—

- As surely as I see with my eyes the bread broken and the cup given, **so I am reminded for certain that Christ became a real human being and poured out His blood on the cross! [INDEED, more than that: He was the GOD-MAN!]**

- As surely as I take the bread and cup in my hand and taste them with my mouth, so I know for certain that Christ continually nourishes and refreshes my soul with lasting benefits from HIS ONCE and for all GIVING of His crucified body and shed blood, at Calvary!

[Mt.26.26-28; 1 Cor. 11.23-25]

Christ's invitation to the Supper is for me IF I am IN CHRIST; and IF I AM presently repenting of my sin and trusting Christ for salvation; AND IF I am baptized and have publicly confessed Christ; AND IF I show by my life a practical unity with a local church; And IF I have exercised my responsibility to heal broken relationships with other members of the body. **MAKE NO MISTAKE,**

THIS SACRED TABLE IS NOT TO BE APPROACHED LIGHTLY!

“²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of

the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep [DIED!]. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world." (1 Corinthians 11:26-32; New King James Version)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO EAT AND DRINK THE LORD'S SUPPER?

It means that I accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ for me. It means that by believing in CHRIST, I am forgiven all my sins and now have eternal life. IT MEANS THAT I NOT ONLY REJOICE IN THE DEATH OF JESUS; BUT ALSO HIS RESURRECTION; AND THE HOPE OF HIS SECOND COMING!

MAKE NO MISTAKE: Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not wash away my sins. Only Christ can remove my sins, and that happens when I place my faith in Him, **BECAUSE HE has given me life:** Ephesians 2:1-10.

WHAT IF I KNOW THAT I'M NOT PERFECT?

1. I may come when I know myself to be a sinner and am displeased with myself because of my sin, yet come trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin.

2. I may come when I know myself to be weak and in need of Christ to strengthen my faith; **and when** I desire Him to enable me to live a MORE CHRIST-LIKE life.

WHAT BENEFITS MAY BE RECEIVE BY COMING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?

My sins are exposed for what they really are before a Holy God. My heart is inflamed with love for Christ. I am reminded of all that He suffered for me. My faith in Christ is strengthened. My hope that one day I will live with Christ is made more certain. Although His resurrection body is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and I am still here on earth, the Lord's Supper reinforces His promise that He is coming back AND that He will one day raise my mortal body and take me home to heaven to be with Him.

ARE THERE LESSONS FROM THE USE OF THE BREAD AND DRINK?

THESE visible signs, quickened by the Holy Spirit, can give FRESH ASSURANCE that all JESUS has done for me in His perfect obedience, suffering, and death is certainly mine. I am freshly reminded that what Jesus accomplished for sinners at Calvary is given to me personally.

MEDITATION examples during a LORD'S SUPPER observance:

As I take the bread, I remember to thank God that Christ took up a human body; that He was tempted just as I am; that He was willing to suffer for me; that He lived a hard life in a poor family and that He was willing to be misunderstood.

As I take the cup, I remember to thank God that Jesus poured out His blood for me; that He saves me from the guilt of my sin; that He sets me free from the power of sin; that I now have the righteousness of Christ and that I will live and reign with Christ forever.

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE: PARENTS—

Are your children saved, baptized believers? Spend time HELPING THEM to be prepared for SACRED WORSHIP at the LORD'S TABLE!

Are they yet outside of Christ? MAKE SURE you help them to know that THE LORD'S TABLE is ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST! SHARE the gospel with them!

Great Grace to All! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, Chapter 11!*** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!*)

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— Tuesday, April 6, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAYS: April 4, 11, 18, 25 * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

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

Additional Sunday Events for April 2021:

1. April 4, LORD'S SUPPER; and after morning worship service the Fellowship Meal.

2. April 11, 5:00pm - 6:30 pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

3. April 18, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS in the evening.

4. April 25, 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'— 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, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

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 APRIL 4* 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:

NO UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN

ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING!