

4/4/21- WE had equipment failure with the Live Streaming Service. HOWEVER, most of the service, including the MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD... can now be VIEWED and listened to here:
<https://youtu.be/DZkoGkFO93w>

**GROW
IN
GRACE
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 46, No. 14, April 6, 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 LORD'S TABLE IS A GRAND FEAST!

Exclusively, from a New Testament point of view it is correct to proclaim that the yearly BIG EVENTS on, (the CHURCH CALENDAR), revolve solely around the LORD'S SUPPER. The LORD'S SUPPER guides the Christ-focused Christian through 'FULL SALVATION' every time we observe it. Moreover, it is NOT the LORD'S SUPPER PLUS something more, so as to make the occasion MORE APPEALING! The New Testament way **is in great contrast to Christendom's CHURCH CALENDAR'S BIG EVENTS!**

[Note: 'Christendom' is a word to speak of ALL and everyone WHO claims to believe in Jesus, who claim to be Christian... no matter if they are conservative or liberal; no matter if they embrace the true gospel or a false; no matter if they are 'Bible-believing'... fundamental... reformed... evangelical... roman catholic... or Mormon, etc. — all these and more are fiercely loyal to the same man created BIG DAYS of Christmas and Easter.] **MOREOVER, the nature of these holidays are such that the whole world (genuinely Christian or not... or even pagans) - GLADLY**

JOIN IN the celebration! These holidays offer something for everyone. Furthermore, to grasp the HOLD ON THE MASSES that they have— JUST FOLLOW THE MONEY: For example, the latest stats show that at Christmas, Americans spent **about ONE TRILLION dollars!**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/12/christmas-holiday-season-shopping-retail-gifts/>

THE OTHER BIG CHURCH HOLIDAY, OF COURSE, IS EASTER; AND, again, as normal... when man is the creator and is in charge — BIG BUCKS are spent! Easter spending for 2021:

- \$21.6 Billion: Total Easter-related spending expected in 2021 (\$180 per person celebrating).
- \$3 Billion: Projected Easter spending on candy.

<https://wallethub.com/blog/easter-facts/19776>

STRONG REALITY: IN THE MIDST of holidays which are birthed and given to us by the world and which the authoritative powers that be in Christendom dogmatically claim that these holidays are wholly Christian— **THERE ARE MANY, many sincere Christians who** were brought up and ingrained to believe that Christmas and Easter EQUAL the Birth of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ. **SO, they do their level best to emphasize Christ while at the same time holding on to and mixing in the traditions of man.**

HOWEVER, THIS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE UNDERTAKING, even as JESUS TELLS US: (Matthew 6:24, Amp)

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and

mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].

MORE REALITY: If one wants to know about Christmas or Easter—you must go to history books, or to the books of Christendom, or even to the ‘notes in Study Bibles, or to the books and sermons of preachers.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT GOING TO THE BIBLE? By all means, go to the Bible! AND IN THE BIBLE YOU WILL FIND THAT Bible itself never equates or mixes in or even mentions Christmas or Easter; and certainly THE BIBLE NEVER speaks of the Birth of Christ or the Resurrection of Christ as being the same thing as Christmas or Easter.

BUT WHO CARES? WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WE ARE SINCERE. ALL WE ARE DOING IS TAKING GOD’S WORD AND ADDING THE EXCITEMENT OF OUR OWN TRADITIONS! INDEED; and man has a long history of ‘adding to’ God’s Word!

IN CONTRAST... and in SEEKING to glory in Christ... with no clutter of mammon added— WE COME TO THE LORD’S SUPPER, celebrating FULL SALVATION! GOD’S salvation that has [1] a definite beginning; [2] a definite process; and [3] a definite climax which leads into eternity with God! **The LORD’S SUPPER unveils a ‘Spiritual Road Map’ for the Christian’s life— showing [1] where we’ve been; [2] where we are; and [3] where God is leading us!**

WARZONE REALITY: It is so easy to get entangled in the cares of this life and lose a proper sense of purpose and destiny. We began to wander. We find ourselves like a ship off course and CRASHING ON THE ROCKS OF SIN. **WE NEED A COMPASS, WE NEED A**

MIGHTY LIGHTHOUSE beaming forth full salvation and calling us to delight ourselves in God Himself, alone!

THUS, THE LORD'S SUPPER CELEBRATION OF 'FULL SALVATION sets forth,

I. PASSEOVER: For the Old Testament Israelites, Passover was a remembrance of the night when the death angel passed over their homes sparing the first born. **For New Testament Christians, the Passover marks the beginning of salvation.** The Passover lamb beautifully pictured Christ -John 1:29... *"Behold the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world."* I Cor. 5:7—***"Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."*** God's message in the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same: **Not when** I see your good works or your golden rule living... **NOT WHEN I SEE YOUR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE— but *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you!"***

CRITICAL QUESTION: Have you ever come to Jesus with all of your sin; and cried out in similar fashion as the tax-collector: ***"O God, be merciful to me a sinner?"***

II. UNLEAVENED BREAD: In Scripture, leaven usually refers to sin. This feast pictured that those who were delivered from death by the shedding of and the applying of INNOCENT blood— SUCH ONES not only have their sins forgiven; BUT NOW, **God has a claim on the regenerated life!** [I Cor. 5:6-8 ; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; I Thess. 5:22; II Tim. 2:19]

*** Christian friend, in our own strength we cannot conquer sin or self or Satan! IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, We cannot keep God's holy commandments. **But Christ in us can! And so it is by Him, our High Priest, that we conquer (Ex. 13:14 & 14:14).** Therefore:

1. In obedient faith, let us put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7). 2. In obedient faith, let us live a life of feeding on Christ who has no leaven. 3. In trusting faith, let us live a life of total dependence. **The LORD'S TABLE reminds us of all these things!**

III. FIRST FRUITS: For New Testament saints: **The resurrected Jesus Christ is the first fruits of them that slept (I Cor. 15:20-23).** He arose from the dead. He was accepted by God. And because He, the first fruits, was accepted— so we the rest of the harvest are accepted in Him— (James 1:18— of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures). **Moreover, Rom. 8:23 tells us that we have the first fruits of the Holy Spirit!** It is by the Holy Spirit that we have even now the resurrection life of Christ and the blessed hope of future resurrection!

When we experience a saving encounter with Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual participation in these first three feasts:

1. Passover— We are redeemed, delivered BY THE BLOOD SACRIFICE OF A SUBSTITUTE, A SIN BEARER— OUR SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Christ became our Passover Lamb. THROUGH HIM, WE were and ARE DELIVERED from wrath/slavery/guilt. But that is not all: WE ALSO EXPERIENCE,

2. “Unleavened bread”— that is, we are separated from sin. We put away sin and feed on Christ. HOW COULD IT BE OTHERWISE?

3. First fruits— we are consecrated. We are accepted in the Beloved because of His resurrection and we are set apart for Him. We are not only saved from the world, the flesh and the devil, but we are consecrated— Saved to a new life in Christ.

But that's not all!

IV. PENTECOST: This feast is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. This was originally a sort of harvest festival of thanksgiving after the people had gathered the harvest. The ancient rabbis, right or wrong, later concluded that God gave the law to Moses on this day. So this festival came to be regarded as the season of the giving of the law.

HOWEVER, more significant and certain is this: 1. Jesus died on Passover. 2. Jesus was raised on First Fruits. 3. And the Holy Spirit came exactly on the day of Pentecost! MOREOVER,

4. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost for express purposes— to indwell, fill, and baptize believers. John 14:16-17—He shall be in you. Acts 1:5; 2:4 **Why?**

1. To empower the believers for the evangelizing of the world (Acts 1:8).
2. To form the body of Christ (Jew and Gentile— I Cor. 12:13).
3. To enable and empower every Christian to keep God's holy law (Ez. 36:26-27).
4. To teach us all that Jesus said. To glorify Jesus. To unveil the future
(John 14-16).
5. To manifest in/through every redeemed sinner a miraculous orchard of fruit (Gal. 5:21-23).
6. To release through every Christian a glorious array of ministering gifts
to build up the body of Christ. **Oh, glorious full salvation!**

NOTICE: All of these events happen at the beginning of the Christian life: 1. Passover— Deliverance from judgment and Satan.

2. Unleavened Bread— Separation from sin. **3. First Fruits**— Consecration to Christ. **4. Pentecost**— Indwelling power for a holy/bold/witnessing life.

We are living in the Pentecostal age. EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS, FROM A BIBLICAL SENSE, A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTIAN! None of this is a second work of grace— but, rather salvation, continuing works of grace! ALSO: RIGHT NOW, we are living in an interval of time before the next great event of God’s calendar. My, what a solid Rock foundation the Christian has: Our past is forgiven AND our present is empowered!

V. THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS: In this present hour, the Christian lives with **soberness and with hope. Soberness:** Sound the trumpet! The judgment and wrath of God is coming. **Soberness:** Rev. 18:2-5. **Hope:** JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK! Rev. 19-22. **Living in the conscious awareness of Christ’s second coming, for the Christian, is a PURIFYING HOPE: 1 John 3:14**

VI. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT: In the Old Testament, it was a sacred day of cleansing from sin. Today, in Christ, because of Calvary, we are already cleansed from both the **penalty** of sin and the ruling **power** of sin. But one day, when Christ comes, we shall be delivered from even the **presence** of sin and **possibility** of sin (Rev. 7:15-17; Rev. 21-22; I John 3:1-3). **No wonder PAUL CRIES OUT— “God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world!” (Gal. 6:14, Phillips)**

VII. THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES: Here is consummation, completion, rest, and fellowship with God. Here is ruling with and rejoicing with Christ forever; sitting at His feet. And beholding His face (Rev. 22:1-5)... [**Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 3:13-14**]

Yes, the sacred Feasts of the LORD call us to a mighty revival of delighting in God. *And surely in the New Testament fulfillment of them, we are being called to delight in God and in SO GREAT SALVATION!*

*** I AM SURE that the LORD GOD is pleased to use these glorious FULL SALVATION CELEBRATIONS to help keep us from SHIPWRECK.

*** They give us a yearly ROADMAP so that every week and throughout the year, saints in Christ are reminded of— WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WHOSE WE ARE, AND THAT WE ARE ON A JOURNEY HOME!

YES— *“Blessed/happy/fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, who understand and appreciate the spiritual blessings symbolized by the feasts; they walk, O Lord, in the light and favor of your countenance.”*

As the LORD permits, APRIL 18, WE WILL BE CELEBRATING GOD’S GRAND SEVEN-FOLD FEAST... GLORIOUS FULL SALVATION— ALL SEVEN FEASTS ARE INCORPORATED IN THE LORD’S SUPPER!

Grace and Peace in Christ! 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 20, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

SUNDAYS: April 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 11, 5:00pm - 6:30 pm-** Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.
2. **April 18, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS in the evening.**
3. **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 11; 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!