



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

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

GENUINE REVIVAL and SPIRITUAL AWAKENING!

ACTS 17, RECORDS a time of one of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys. He was going from place to place, drawing his arguments out of the Scripture, explaining and quoting Scripture passages to prove that the suffering, the death, and the resurrection of Christ were necessary and ordained of God, as he was proclaiming that Jesus was **THE CHRIST!**

AS A RESULT, some believed AND some believed not. CHRIST/GOSPEL DESPISERS went into overdrive with envy and hate! Quickly, a whole city was in an uproar, crying out to the rulers that

"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also!"

REALITY:

1. WHEN the Gospel is lived and preached in power, the status quo is likely to get upset— especially the religious status quo! The true Gospel of Christ lived and preached REVOLUTIONIZES!

2. WHEN THE GOSPEL IS LIVED AND PREACHED in power— the hope of UNJUST gain AND the hope of gain from the sale of sin products dies, as in Acts 16.

3. WHEN the gospel of Christ is experienced there is not only a confession of sin but there is also a clear departing from sin, as is recorded in Acts 19, where true conversions led to BOOK BURNINGS valued at over 50,000 pieces of silver!

NOTE: The sin destroying POWER of the gospel, as recorded in Acts, was not because there were marches, protests, or economic boycotts against the pagans.

Rather, it was because there were fewer patrons available to pump the sin economy full of money! **WHY? Because the ex-sin patrons were now saved and no longer buying!**

Whenever there is true conversion, true revival, and/or spiritual awakening— hope of gain from sin goes down because the demand for sin's products goes down!

WHY? Because real revived Christians and/or newly saved folk stop buying sin products and stop patronizing the sin-holes of the world.

WHY? Because now such folk are now deeply in love with Jesus and on mission with God to make Christ known and visible to a lost world. IN OTHER WORDS, with life and lips they live and preach the gospel!

In all the true revivals of history, this has been the case.

Am I, are we interested in real revival and spiritual awakening?

IN CONTRAST, 'cultural Christian religion 'revivals' are always quick to point their finger in disgust at the world, acting shocked and amazed that the world sins so blatantly. Yet, while religionists profess horror at the sins of the world, privately they (we?) continue drinking deeply and secretly from the same sin fountains. (Romans 2:1-29)

ALSO, the Living-By-The-Word-of-God-Christian is not surprised at the sin of the world. GENUINE Christians well remember their own past in the world when they too were enslaved by the world, the flesh and the devil. But now, BEING INDWELT and POWERED by the Holy Spirit, they have stopped drinking at those sin wells. (Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:1-7) They no longer fuel and fund the world's sin economy.

Instead, they are broken hearted for the world. **They** pray for the enslaved. **They** model holiness, purity, humility, forgiveness, love, joy, peace, and faith to the enslaved. **They** model the gospel of God's amazing grace! They are salt and light. **They** preach the gospel which they know is the only power that transforms.

Today, in 2021, instead of Church folk destroying SIN ITEMS and instead of ceasing to purchase SIN PRODUCTS— all too often, it is the "Christian People" who are funding and fueling a huge portion of the economy of sin!

EXAMPLES:

1. Church folk make lawyers lots of money! How? By refusing to love, forgive, and live holy— they fill the divorce courts... with a growing number of pastors leading the way! And... they line up for abortions.

2. Church folk fuel much of the economy of ungodly music of almost every description.

3. Church folk spend mega bucks on ungodly movie videos/DVDs and VIDEO games as these items are rented or purchased.

4. Internet Porn is greatly enhanced as a CASH COW for the heathen because of the purchases by enslaved pastors and pew sitters.

Note: The sodomites were on the outside of Lot's house trying to force their way in.

Today, the sodomites, the adulterers, the violent, and the ungodly of every description ARE WELCOMED DAILY INTO CHRISTIAN HOMES, BY MEDIA OUTLETS; and by the lifestyles of church folk!

From time to time, sincere pastors of congregations will gather and talk about how to reach more people for Christ in our post-Christian culture. The conversation often goes about like this:

1) Lament is voiced that most lost folk seem to have no interest in assembling with saints in congregational settings.

2) Sadness is expressed that they and their churches do not have the mega bucks and impressive programs and productions like the few Big Churches.

3) Vast amounts of statistical data about the makeup of their communities are presented. Everyone has a tag: Baby boomers, Gen X, Millennials, etc...

4) Pastors conclude that they have to adapt to the standards, trends and music of the world.

5) Bibles are seldom needed or opened and rarely poured over when congregations gather. No one even considers the 'Acts of the Apostles' model by which 'their world was turned upside down!'

6) The few big churches are drooled over.

7) If someone points out that the 'END PRODUCT' of churches of all sizes today is that congregations have about the same or less MORALITY as the lost ones we are supposed to reach— there will be a nod of agreement, an uncomfortable silence, and a quick moving on to other topics.

We seem to be quite uncomfortable in allowing the Plumb Line of Scripture to have center stage and then letting the Holy Spirit bring and work REVELATION, WISDOM, CONVICTION, REPENTANCE, AND REVIVAL!

COMMON, SAD REALITY: "We are cancelling the gospel we preach by the lives we are living!"

GRAND REALITY:

The church of Jesus Christ has always been most effective when she was most different from the world!

EVEN SO and sadly, many evangelicals and fundamentalists mark effectiveness by how many nickels and noses we have to count!

Nevertheless and in contrast, God is looking for real salt and light disciples who are full of love, purity, holiness, forgiveness, kindness, boldness, compassion, faith, hope and joy! **WARNING: This is a shock to our mentality, but God does not necessarily get excited about big crowds! EXAMPLES:**

1) Aaron had A HUGE AWESOME WORSHIP service— at least they thought so, until Moses got back! Their ‘worship service’ brought the judgment of God!

2) The Ten Spies and the great hosts of Israel were in agreement as to what needed to be done— however, their path left millions of them rotting in the wilderness over 40 years.

3) Lot looked RELEVANT sitting at the gate of Sodom— until the judgment of God came.

4) Gideon's 32,000! Wow! Let's clone that! In one week, he went from ZERO to 32,000 in attendance! That's impressive! Well, maybe...

Well, actually God was not impressed. God did His work with only 300.

5) The folks in Isaiah's day were all excited about their grand worship services. These people really knew how to worship... or did they? God was not impressed: Isaiah 1:1-20

6) The world's church is highly successful and impressive with her size, her fine purple and scarlet and her golden cup and her worldwide influence... ***until God exposes her. (Rev. 17)***

AS ALWAYS, GOD IS LOOKING FOR REALITY! However, there is a MASSIVE CONSPIRACY against True Revival and True Spiritual Awakening!

SURELY one of satan's greatest strategies is to blind, to deceive and to destroy the effectiveness of Bible Believing Christians— to make them, **to make US, DRUNK on the world! One of the chief ways is through modern MEDIA! MANY CHRISTIANS, (even real ones!), spend a great deal of time,**

1) Watching TV, videos, DVDs, and/or Movies, and/or playing Video games.

2) Listening to secular music, reading all manner of books, magazines and newspapers.

3) Being taken up with a myriad of earthly pursuits related to the love of things, pleasure, money, houses, and lands, etc...

4) They may still go to church on a regular basis. **However, they are strangers to spending time with God in His WORD.**

5) It may well be that a number of the things in the above list in which they/we partake are NOT EVIL in and of themselves... It's just that they get all of our priority and God and His Kingdom work gets our left-overs!

REALITY CONCLUSIONS:

1. God is on mission to redeem a numberless multitude out of this lost world. He calls Christians to a life long journey of fellowship with Him. Through us — through lifestyle and through gospel presentations — HE WILL BRING THE LOST to faith in Christ.

2. But we depart from Him. We raise up substitutes. In His love, God disciplines His people. He allows the world to trample us under their feet because we have lost our saltiness and hid the light of Christ. We tend to blast the world that God has ordained to trample us, rather than repenting and coming back to God!

3. IF AND WHEN WE DO CRY OUT TO GOD IN BROKENNESS AND REPENTANCE we will find that God responds like the father of the prodigal son: **God is eager to fully save and/or fully restore!** But let us make no mistake. God is not playing games. The stakes are high. The call of God is REPENT!

4. When we repent in our hearts and return unto God, He cleanses and forgives and restores and empowers. As a result, we are a real and MIGHTY VISUAL of God's amazing grace to a watching world.

GOD WORKS IN REALITY: GOD'S METHOD TO GET THE GOSPEL OUT IS NOT BY DRAMATIC PLAY ACTING; BUT BY REAL, EVERYDAY FOLK WHO GIVE FORTH THE GENUINE FRAGRANCE OF JESUS IN THE MIDST OF THE TROUBLES, TRIALS, AND TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE!

God's method is Restored, Revived Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit. NOTE: The Holy Spirit does not make one do the stupid things that religionists promote on Television. **No. He is the HOLY Spirit.** He makes us like Jesus! He leads us in the steps of Jesus! He restores us as SALT and as LIGHT.

He leads us in paths of RIGHT LIVING and manifests through us GOOD WORKS and the world, in turn, glorifies God!

**LET US WALK ON AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER
ALONG THESE PATHS OF REVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL
AWAKENING!**

Grace to one and 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 Wendy's Biscuits are available!*)

***** Ladies Bible Study— Taking a SUMMER BREAK! IN THE MEANTIME— Go to www.southsidegallatin.org and CLICK on YouTube!**

SUNDAY SERVICES: June 13, 20, 27:

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

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

Additional Sunday Events for JUNE 2021:

- 1. JUNE 13, 5:00pm-6:30 pm-** Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.
- 2. JUNE 20, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.**
- 3. JUNE 27, 5:00pm-6:00pm-** Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP!

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

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR JUNE 13,

(OR simply to connect with our YouTube page, for a variety of messages) — GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

****** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by 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!