

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 34, August 24, 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 BRIDE OF CHRIST IN CONTRAST TO THE HARLOT!**

Pick any country. Pick any state, city, town or community— in fact, pick Gallatin/Sumner County, Tennessee. Gather together **all who profess** to be Christians. Next, tally the total number of churches represented. Now, using Biblical designations, how many different churches will there be? ANSWER: THERE ARE ONLY 2... and you cannot determine identity by the mere name on a church building sign! THE ISSUE is: HEARTS PLANTED BY JESUS!

### **I. Only Two Churches!**

**There is the true Church of Jesus Christ**, comprised of those personally “planted” by God the Father (Matthew 15:13); and personally given to God the Son by God the Father! (John 17:2) Ultimately, this true church will make up a numberless multitude out of every kindred, tongue, tribe, and people (Revelation 7:9).

**This church, CHRIST’S CHURCH**, experiences the life of God in their souls by the miracle of new birth and revival by the INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD! **Those who all their lives had been** dead in sin and living according to the course of this present world and duped by the devil and under the holy and just

wrath of God (Ephesians 2:1-3), **NOW THAT THEY ARE 'IN CHRIST!' find themselves** set free from satan and set free from sin's guilt, power and domination by the precious blood of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit who now resides in all true saints of God.

**THERE IS ANOTHER so called CHURCH! You will find her to be outwardly impressive but inwardly an evil harlot.** She is an adulteress. She loves the world and is loved by the world. Thus, the love of the Father is not in her! (1 John 2:15)

**The great harlot and all her daughters are in explosive end-time revival!** It is a revival that pleases the flesh. It is a revival that offers the comforts of "religion" while at the same time allowing deceived masses to keep their sin and their ego.

**At the harlot (Wide Gate!) church** there is no need of denying yourself, taking up your cross daily and following Jesus. **However, God did not plant her and she, in due time, shall be rooted up! (Matthew 15:13)**

### **The Body of Christ— A Club or A Church?**

Clubs are organizations we join because they meet our needs, goals and desires. Earthly clubs such as the *Lion's Club*, have their place in society. **However, the true church of Jesus Christ is no club!**

***She is the creation of God and she is for God. She (And thus, each and every one of her members!) exists to be to the praise of His glory and to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.***

***She gives herself to the threefold calling of Worshipping God, of helping other saints mature in Christ and of evangelizing the lost.***

**In a genuine, New Testament Church**, the Holy Spirit invigorates and motivates Christians, (Even newborn Christians!), to a continual study of the Word of God, to prayer, to fellowship with other saints, to the Lord's Supper, to sharing with and caring for other believers, and to a lifestyle of proclaiming the gospel to the lost. (Acts 2:36-47; 8:1-4) **Moreover**, saving grace teaches the Bride to say "**NO!**" to ungodliness and "**YES!**" to godliness! (Titus 2:11-14)

## **II. Some Examples of the Mentality of the Harlot**

**BE ALERT:** There are Harlot Churches. But also, a member of "the Harlot" may be found in the midst of a true expression of Christ's church. **Surprised? Jesus says that the wheat and tares often grow together! Many TARES are in the pulpit!** (Matthew 7:21-23)

Thus, as the following is read, let each one of us ask:

**Does the mentality of the Harlot live in me?**

**Newsweek Article: Shopping for a church!** "...the customer is king... the most successful churches are those that most resemble the suburban shopping mall... the aim is support not salvation, help rather than holiness..."

**Marketing the Church**, by Barna: "It is...critical that we keep in mind a fundamental principle of Christian communication: The audience, **not the message**, is sovereign..."

**Ashamed of the Gospel**, by John MacArthur: Many quotes could be given from this fine book which wisely exposes the world's

church: “After all, the church’s chief competition is a world filled with secular amusements and a host of worldly goods and services. **Therefore, the marketing experts say** we will never win people until we develop effective alternative forms of entertainment to capture the people’s attention and loyalty away from the world’s offerings.” **THUS:** IN ‘WIDE-GATE’ churches the ‘alternative forms of entertainment to capture folks for the Broadway / Wide-Gate congregation will look and be MUCH THE SAME as what lost people already love.

**What / Who is the Cohesiveness Factor? (COHESIVENESS: Closs-knit. Unified in purpose. Loyal.)**

“For generations there was a cohesiveness in [many] congregations which had nothing to do with the Christian Gospel! IN OTHER WORDS: People with no conception or experience of the **Cross of Christ** were loyal to their church because of \*\* family loyalty... \*\* denominational loyalty... \*\* seniority... \*\* a beloved pastor... \*\* certain doctrines... and/or \*\* because of certain programs which the church offered. **Many churches adopted** the philosophy of \*\* ‘anything to hold the youth’ ...” (The Rebirth of the Congregation, by R. E. Bieber)

### **III. The Heart of the True Church is the Gospel of Christ**

R. E. Bieber goes on to correctly remind us *that the apostolic church, “... Used the **Gospel alone** to arrest the world’s attention and bring men to conversion... it also relied upon the **Gospel alone** to hold men and women to their commitment and to build the church!”*

[1] The true church of Jesus Christ is comprised of **a people to whom** the Kingdom of God has already come! [2] The Bride of Christ is **a people over whom** the Spirit of God is already sovereign! [3] The true church is **a people among whom** the

Lordship of Christ is already received! [4] Among members of the Bride of Christ, **the real and only cohesive factor and loyalty factor is Jesus Christ the Lord!**

The Bride listens to and receives the Word of God. She goes forth out into her world as a people sent forth by Jesus Christ. **The Bride of Christ is comprised exclusively of Disciples of Christ.** As such they are: [1] **Followers** in the steps of Jesus; [2] **Pupils** at the feet of Jesus; [3] **Servants** submitting to the wishes and commands of Jesus; and [4] **Ambassadors** of Jesus to a lost world! None have perfection. But all are possessed of a genuine, life-changing love for Jesus because He first loved them!

#### **IV. Examples of the Bride**

**Just look in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of the New Testament!** But let us pay close attention to Acts 2:36-47; 8:1-4: **When the lost are converted**, born again by the Spirit of God— No one has to beg, bribe, pamper, threaten, or motivate! **Discipleship is on automatic! There is INDWELLING DESIRE! There is an INDWELLING COMPELLING!** These folk continued fervently in Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, The Lord's Supper, Caring for each other practically and sacrificially, and giving the gospel to the lost.

**Over 450 years ago, many of the Anabaptists were of like spirit.** So much so that even as they were martyred by burning, they manifested the spirit of Jesus. **A 14 year old lad**, Cornelis Aertsz De Man witnessed one such expression of faith. Because of having witnessed such a genuine expression of the Bride of Christ, he was moved to search out where such believers met. He found a group, meeting in a nearby home. **The youth program of these Anabaptists really got the attention of Cornelis!** Of

this expression of the Bride of Christ, he stated that *“...Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word, their joy in life (Though they were persecuted) and their concern for love and moral integrity all excited him....”*

**Before long, by the power of the gospel of Christ, Cornelis was saved; and he was disciplined by these ADULT saints.** Soon, even lost family members were forced to admire his “gracious disposition; and the love and the piety of his life; and his diligence in studying the Scriptures, and the joy with which he shared his new found relationship with Jesus.”

By age 17 he was so dynamic in his love for Jesus that **the Harlot “church” wanted to get him to recant his simple faith in Jesus.** The Harlot arrested him, tortured him and at the same time promised Cornelis “a future of honor and position if he would turn....” from Christ. Calmly he replied,

**“There is no higher position than to be a child of God and no greater honor than to be a voice for Him!”**

Cornelis survived many tortures with a Christ-like spirit, before being burned at the stake at age 21. (This account from, ***Faithful Unto Death***, by Myron Augsburger)

**CRITICAL NOTE:** Another difference between the Bride and the Harlot is this: *[1]The Bride never, never threatens, never seeks to force, never imprisons, hurts, or kills in order to advance her cause.*

**[2] THE HARLOT IS BLOODY WITH THE BLOOD OF SAINTS! THIS REVEALS THAT ISLAM AND MUCH OF WHAT IS CALLED CHRISTIANITY [Catholic and Protestant] ARE ALL OF THE**

## **HARLOT!** (Rev. 17:1-6)

**The harlot**, will pretend love; but she hates and persecutes and tortures the Bride; and the harlot will fight and kill one another as she fights for territorial rights! **The Bride** is willing to be tortured and even killed... but she is never willing to inflict such on others.

**God may not call you, or I, or our youth to martyrdom. But such is the case in parts of our world this very day. We must be developing a spirit like theirs, a spirit like Cornelis! Even in this present hour our confession must be:**

**“There is no higher position than to be a child of God and no greater honor than to be a voice for Him.”**

## **TWO END TIME REVIVALS**

"Never has it been more clear to me that two revivals are in progress on the earth. \*\*\* **One is the revival of the Spirit of God** by which dead men and women are freed from their sins by the blood of the Lamb and raised to a life which is the life of the sons of God, a life which bears God's nature, manifests God's mercy. \*\*\* **The other revival is the revival of religious flesh**, a revival which is so appealing and gathers such multitudes and wields such power in this world because it offers all the comfort of religion while allowing you to keep your ego and all rights to yourself."

**FINAL QUESTIONS: To which Church do I belong?** The Broadway / Wide-Gate church is impressive and appealing to my flesh, and lets me keep my ego... and my sin... and have heaven at the end... or so they claim. THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, well... it's all about HIM... AND loving Him... because He first loved me!

I MUST REMEMBER: The Holy Spirit planted apostolic church of the New Testament used the **Gospel alone** to arrest the world's attention and bring men to conversion... it also relied upon the **Gospel alone** to hold men and women to their commitment and to build the church.

The true church of Jesus Christ is comprised of **a people to whom** the Kingdom of God has already come!

The Bride of Christ is **a people over whom** the Spirit of God is already sovereign!

The true church is **a people among whom** the Lordship of Christ is already received!

Among members of the Bride of Christ, **the real and only cohesive factor and loyalty factor is Jesus Christ the Lord!**

(Various portions of this article are edited from 'The Rebirth of the Congregation, by R.E. Bieber; and from Escape From Christendom, by Robert Burnell)

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00 AM, 8/28/21 — Men's Bible Study: THE BOOK OF JOB, Chapter 6 & 7!** *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)*

**\*\*\* Ladies Bible Study! NEXT STUDY, AUGUST 31 @ 11:00 AM**

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**AUGUST 28, SATURDAY @ 9:30 AM— DE-CLUTTER THE CHURCH BUILDING DAY!**

AT THIS POINT ALL WE WANT IS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO 'STRAIGHTEN UP' AND/OR DISCARD UNUSED ITEMS IN YOUR CLASS ROOM! This can be done ANY TIME this week or on Saturday Morning!

## **SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST 29:**

**\*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **\*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

***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 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... 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.**

**3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITIMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.**

**4.** 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.***

**5.** HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons:

<https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> // A GUIDE TO HOME-BASED EARLY STEPS AGAINST 'COVID!' PLEASE CLICK ON THE ABOVE LINK... THIS IS A VERY HELPFUL, PRACTICAL RESOURCE!

**TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>....**

**GO TO:** [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://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>