

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! Volume 46, No. 38, September 21, 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!"*

IN OUR WORLD: There is Unspeakable Evil, Pain, DISEASE, DEATH, and Suffering!

THEREFORE, for many there is a crisis of faith because human reasoning says that, **(1) IF GOD IS** all knowing, and all-loving, and perfectly good— He must want to stop all this bad stuff! **(2) And IF GOD IS** also sovereign and all powerful— He must be FULLY ABLE to stop it. **BUT the suffering and evil, (not only has not stopped) — IT SEEMS TO BE EXPLODING!** Therefore, a growing number of theologians and pastors are teaching/preaching slanderous things against God, such as:

"What kind of a monstrous god would allow it?" Baptist Pastor Gregory Boyd, in his book **GOD OF THE POSSIBLE** states, "... **If God foreknew** that Adolph Hitler would send six million Jews to their death, why did He go ahead and create a man like that? **How is God not responsible for** the behavior of evil people He "unleashes" on the world— if, in fact, He is absolutely certain of what they will do once "unleashed"? **Moreover, if God is** eternally certain that various individuals will end up being eternally damned, why does He go ahead and create them? **If hell is** worse than never being born, as Jesus suggests (Matt. 26:24), wouldn't an all-loving God refrain from creating people He is certain will end up there?"

THUS, more and more people are concluding that, (1) God must not be all loving and all good! **(2)** Or if God is all loving, God must not be all powerful! He means well and would like to stop all evil; but He is just not able to pull it off! **(3)** Besides, there are lots of events that **God simply does not know about until they happen!** For God is, as Gregory Boyd clearly implies, merely "The God of the POSSIBLE" who may or may not be able to carry out His will!

(4) Jewish Rabbi Harold Kushner has similar conclusions, in ***When Bad Things Happen to Good People***. He says that God is **all-loving but not always all powerful** to stop suffering! His book is popular among pastors and church members.

(4) CLOSER TO HOME, when life tumbles in with evil, pain and suffering— *is it not true that many of us all too quickly question the goodness, love, wisdom, power, and/or the sovereignty of God?* Moreover, it is a sad fact that many of us tend to forget, or deny, minimize, and/or refuse to receive and apply **BIBLICAL REVELATION!**

What follows are some statements along with many Scripture references, which — if we receive them — will tear down deadly deceptions about God and move us to peace and genuine worship in the midst of the storms of life.

1. GOD DOES INDEED HAVE ALL POWER AND ACCOMPLISHES ALL OF HIS GOOD PLEASURE! Biblical revelation NEVER HINTS that satan's rebellion, or man's Fall into sin, or anything that satan and/or man has ever done has ever caught God by surprise. MOREOVER, God is not wringing his hands in fear or frustration that He will not be able to accomplish all of His good and perfect pleasure. **We may not presently understand how these things can be; but here's critical truth about the true and living God:**

**** Psalm 103:19-** "The LORD hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all." **** Psalm 115:3-** "But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased." **** Psalm 135:6-** "Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places."

**** Proverbs 19:21-** "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD shall stand." **** Proverbs 21:1-** "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will."

** **Isaiah 43:13**- “Yea, before the day was I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand: I will work, and who shall stop it?”

** **Lamentations 3:37**- “Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the LORD commandeth it not?”

** **Daniel 2:20-21**- “**Daniel answered and said**, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”

** **Daniel 4:35**- [GOD took Nebuchadnezzar’s sanity from him; but after he was restored, Nebuchadnezzar was humbled and said] “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?”

2. WE MUST NOT FORGET THE TRAGIC FOUNTAIN FROM WHICH ALL SIN, EVIL, SUFFERING, and DEATH SPRANG: Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s instructions in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2 & 3) **As a result of that rebellion and choice to sin, we all must face a number of tragic realities!**

3. MOREOVER, in this fallen world not only people but **the entire creation suffers and groans as a result of sin:** Romans 8:20-22! Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Drought, ‘911’, atrocities of war, disease, and more are— are all repercussions of man’s rebellion; and they ‘touch’ both saint and sinner!

From the Beginning, God revealed to Adam and Eve that they were RESPONSIBLE BEINGS who would face repercussions for disobedience: **Gen. 2: 16-17**. After their sin, God said: **Gen. 3:16-19**.

In our fallen world we witness, experience, and carry out the AWFUL DEPTHS of man’s depravity. The Bible speaks plainly about the WICKEDNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART. (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18)

In our fallen world, God has decreed SOWING and REAPING— SIN PAYS WAGES! We suffer consequences from our own sin. **We suffer**

consequences from the sins of others, such as— the drunk, the Child abuser, the Evil Politician, the specter of Terrorism, and tyranny!

*In reality, the SORROW, SUFFERING, and EVIL of our world **point the FINGER of guilt at us** and not at any sort of supposed mismanagement, or powerlessness, or lovelessness on the part of Almighty God!*

When we experience or witness some of the HORRORS of this world, WE SHOULD BE CRYING OUT: “Look at the consequences of sin and rebellion. Look at the awesome evil potential of my own heart. Thus, “O sinner flee to Christ before it is everlastingly too late!” And, “Be amazed at grace that saved a wicked sinner like me who only deserved eternity in hell!”

REMEMBER THE STORY OF JOB:

(1) God initiated the conversation with satan about Job. **(2) Job** rightly proclaimed: **“God gave. God took away. Blessed be God!”** **(3) God** used satan to accomplish God’s purposes. **(4) JOB** and his friends ‘go at it’ in deep and often confusing philosophical and theological discussions! During these discussions, in spite of his wrong perceptions, Job continued to hold on to a genuine faith in God. **(5) FINALLY, GOD COMES TO JOB** and asks a series of mind blowing questions! (Job 38-41).

As God asks all these questions, Job begins to realize something that we desperately need to see— the world does not revolve around me, my plans, my wants, and my wishes! Then, in Job 42:5-6, Job gives the proper response of repentance to and humility before God!

LET US UNDERSCORE this truth: The world was not created for me, for us; or for our pleasure! The world and all that is in it was created by God and for God and His purposes and good pleasure. (Rev. 4:11)

Indeed, flowing out of the setting of satan’s temptations, man’s sin, and God’s redemption— **grand demonstrations of God’s attributes are revealed** as the Almighty God, the Master Potter, does ALL of His good pleasure! (Rom 9:13-23)

HERE ARE BOTTOM LINE REALITIES:

1. Yes, there are multitudes in our world experiencing unspeakable horror, and evil— non Christian and Christian— and were it not for the restraining mercies of Almighty God, there would be more HITLERS, more mass shooters, more '911's' more government tyranny and muder, etc.

2. Why? Because of the exceeding wickedness of human hearts: → Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:22-23; Matthew 24:21-22.

3. FROM all of the death and atrocities to be found in our world... FROM every groan and all the agony on the earth, coming from man or beast — IN REALITY IS THIS SHOUT: *“O, the awfulness and the consequences of sin... O, THE DEPTH OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY!”*

4. Here is the supreme grand mystery of planet earth— the reality that there are countless Trophies of Grace— the redeemed, what a glorious wonder! Hell deserving as all others, yet redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, coming right out of the midst of a world of sin and suffering— this is the great mystery! O WHAT, **Amazing Grace!**

5. The redeemed have often suffered and have often been slaughtered by God haters. The redeemed have NOT been shielded from the diseases and other sufferings found in our fallen world. However, for all eternity, the redeemed have no complaints or regrets! (Rev. 7:14-17)

6. From Genesis right through the Revelation, God reveals that He holds men responsible and accountable. Throughout time, God demonstrates His patience.

7. But the day of vengeance against unrepentant rebels is coming: Romans 1:18-32; Rev. 16:4-11; 21:8.

8. AND, for carrying out His holy and just wrath, **God will be rightfully worshiped! (Rev. 19:1-2)**

9. ABOVE ALL ELSE God's ultimate purpose of a Bride for His Son, REDEEMED out of every kindred, tongue, tribe and people is now being and will be totally fulfilled: Rev. 21:9 - Rev. 22:5.

10. Finally, let us not be surprised that we do not understand all of these revelations from God, even though they are clearly stated in His holy Word— for HIS ways are not our ways! (Isa. 55:8-11)

Nevertheless, let us HUMBLE ourselves and rejoice! ALMIGHTY GOD who is love, who is all powerful, who is holy, who is faithful, who is merciful and so much more— **HE REIGNS IN GRAND AND HOLY SOVEREIGNTY!**

“Sovereignty means that God is free to be God...

It's the truth that enables me to say THANK YOU to the One who allowed whatever it is that's the cause of my anxiety and to know that he could have controlled it if He had wished.

Since He didn't, then

I accept the fact that INFINITE WISDOM and UNCHANGING LOVE conspired with ALMIGHTY POWER to cause something that's ultimately for the Christian's good and God's glory!”

MOREOVER: Who am I that I should question God on what He brings and/or what he allows?

Who am I, a piece of clay, to argue with God, the Master Potter?

INSTEAD... I NEED TO... I MUST GIVE THANKS; and “THANKSGIVING to God [Giving THANKS in the midst of a world like ours] is not a psychological tool intended to change circumstances! NO! RATHER,

It's purpose is to change our attitudes, to lift our gaze from what we do not fully understand, to a focus of trust in and worship of the Almighty God of Calvary love and proclaim,

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ... For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; to WHOM BE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN!” (Rom. 11:33, 36)

(The above Sovereignty quote edited from Don Baker’s book, Thank-You Therapy)

And let us not forget: An amazing result of such THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to God is that **we begin to experience the peace of God that surpasses all understanding!** (Phil. 4:6-7)

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00 AM, 9/25/21 — Men’s Bible Study: THE BOOK OF JOB, Chapter 9:25-35!** *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee’s Biscuits are available!)*

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study! Sept. 28 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 26:

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:**

Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

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

3* 5:00pm-** Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium! A variety of singing/praise... FOLLOWED BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD!

Scheduled to preach 9/26— **James Barnhouse**

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**

***** 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>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN INORDER TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

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 DO NOT provide such. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to 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, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... and I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed.

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE!

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!**

CLICK => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/>

[THIS IS A VERY HELPFUL, PRACTICAL RESOURCE... DEVELOPED BY DOCTORS WHO ACTUALLY AND SUCCESSFULLY TREAT COVID-19 PATIENTS!]

Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee. BRIEF. POWERFUL:

➔ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment ... OFFERS a wealth of resources...

[COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)

<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>

MASS PSYCHOSIS - How an Entire Population Becomes MENTALLY ILL

3,616,180 views / Aug 3, 2021

A mass psychosis is an epidemic of madness and it occurs when a large portion of a society loses touch with reality and descends into delusions. Such a phenomenon is not a thing of fiction. Two examples of mass psychoses are the

American and European witch hunts 16th and 17th centuries and the rise of totalitarianism in the 20th century. This video will aim to answer questions surrounding mass psychosis: What is it? How does it start? Has it happened before? Are we experiencing one right now? And if so, how can the stages of a mass psychosis be reversed?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09maaUaRT4M>

NOTE:

The above brief video is NOT a 'Christian' presentation. However, it is full of important INSIGHT... After viewing/listening... one person wrote that it reminded them of a quote: "The most dangerous thing in the world is MASSES of humanity being dominated and ruled by a few who promise to fix everything— all you have to do is just submit to their tyranny!"