

# 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. 40, October 5, 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!"***

**OCTOBER 2021— THE MONTH OF THE 504<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION! Maybe we should just forget it! MANY ALREADY HAVE! WHY IS IT IMPORTANT!**  
[In this article, we will draw from various resources!]

**A few years back, Southern Baptist Pastor, Rick Warren**, speaking at the PEW FORUM ON RELGION AND PUBLIC LIFE said: “You know, 500 years ago, the first Reformation with Luther and then Calvin, was about beliefs. I think a new reformation is going to be about behavior. The first Reformation was about creeds; I think this one will be about deeds. I think the first one was about what the church believes; I think this one will be about what the church does.” **“The first Reformation actually split Christianity into dozens and then hundreds of different segments. I think this one is actually going to bring them together...”**

Last week I spoke to 4,000 pastors at my church who came from over 100 denominations in over 50 countries....We had Catholic priests, we had Pentecostal ministers, we had Lutheran bishops, we had Anglican bishops, we had Baptist preachers.” (Copyright © The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life)

**Also, a few years back, BETH MOORE**, (Now, EX-SBC, but still popular among SBCers), openly claimed that **‘God showed her’ the church, ‘as Jesus sees it’....** And it is a church where Protestants, non-denominational, Charismatics, and Roman Catholics are all one big happy church. **IN OTHER WORDS, the Reformation was a mistake.**

**YES**, very influential Evangelicals such as Rick Warren, James Robison, Beth Moore, Billy Graham (While he was alive... and his influence continues), and

many more believe it is time to forget differences between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. They believe the differences are minor. They want us to ALL UNITE into one church; and be the answer to the prayer of Jesus for unity.

**SO, WAS THE REFORMATION a mistake?** Are the theological, Biblical positions of the Reformation no longer IMPORTANT? For after all, isn't the Roman Catholic Church now basically evangelical?

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**DID THE REFORMATION DEAL WITH ANY REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES? After reading the following, how can any genuine Christian doubt the necessity of the Reformation!? What caused the Reformation?** (The following is edited from Nathan Busenitz)

**It was the Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God preached by men of God in a language that the common people could understand.** When their ears were exposed to the truth of God's Word it pierced their hearts and they were radically changed. And as untold multitudes of individual sinners were changed, entire cities, provinces, and nations were changed as well.

The Reformers themselves recognized that fact. **One of the Swiss Reformers, Ulrich Zwingli,** compared the Bible to the mighty currents of the Rhine river. He said this: **"For God's sake, do not put yourself at odds with the Word of God. For truly it will persist as surely as the Rhine follows its course. One can perhaps dam it up for awhile, but it is impossible to stop it."**

**Martin Luther** echoed that confidence in the power of Scripture. Luther rejected the use of armed violence to promote the Reformation; all that was needed was the preaching of the Word. As he put it,

**"I will not have recourse to arms and bloodshed in defense of the Gospel. By the Word the earth has been subdued; by the Word the Church has been saved; and by the Word also it shall be reestablished."**

In looking at the Reformation we see the dramatic effects that the Word of God produces when it is unleashed on the hearts and minds of men and women.

**An undying commitment to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture is dramatically seen in the lives of those who translated**

**the Word of God into the languages of Europe**, at a time when the Catholic Church made all such translations illegal.

**We could go all the way back to the Waldensians**, a pre-Reformation group that began in the 1100s in the southern part of France. The Waldensians translated the Bible into the common language, and preached the gospel wherever they went. According to tradition, they were so committed to the Scriptures that different family groups would memorize large portions of the Bible — that way, if Roman Catholic authorities ever found them and destroyed their written copies of Scripture, they could later reconstruct the Bible entirely from memory.

**Or we could talk about John Wycliffe**, the great Oxford scholar of the 1300s, who translated the Scriptures into English from the Latin Vulgate. Wycliffe championed basic Reformation principles like “Scripture alone.” The Roman Catholic church hated him so much that after he died, they dug up his bones and burned him in effigy.

**A Bohemian man named Jan Huss** was greatly influenced by Wycliffe. He was a professor at the University of Prague, and also the pastor of one of the city’s largest churches. He preached in the language of the people, which made him very popular. But it also angered the Catholic Church, especially when he taught that Christ alone — and not the Pope — is the head of the church. In 1414, he was promised safe passage to the Council of Constance. When he arrived, he was arrested, imprisoned, and later burned at the stake.

**A century later, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany.** Luther too would have been martyred, if it had not been for the political protection of a local prince. In 1522, Luther translated the New Testament into German, because he understood how vital the Scriptures were to the Reformation work.

**In 1526, William Tyndale** completed a translation of the New Testament from the Greek. A few years later he also translated the Pentateuch from Hebrew. But shortly thereafter he was arrested and executed as a heretic — being strangled and then burned at the stake.

**Tyndale’s last words were “Lord, Open the King of England’s Eyes.”** And it was just a couple years after his death that Henry VIII authorized the Great Bible in England — a Bible that was largely based on Tyndale’s work, and a Bible that laid the foundation for the later King James version.

**Why is it that these men sacrificed so much to get the Word of God into a language that common people could read?** A language like English? It is the same reason that missionaries, even today, sacrifice their

very lives to translate the Bible into the languages of unreached people groups. ***It is because they understand [THE BIBLE!] to be the very Word of God, inspired by His Spirit, authoritative in all things, sufficient for every spiritual need, and the only message of true hope for sinners both in the this life and the next.*** The book [THE BIBLE] you hold in your hand it is a treasure. It is the revelation of God Himself — in printed form — empowered by His Spirit to conform you into the image of His Son! **THE REFORMATION WAS NOT A MISTAKE!**

**Evangelist Mike Gendron has a good word on ‘REMEMBERING THE REFORMATION!’ (Edited)** [Mike's October newsletter encourages us to Remember the Reformation and the growing need to contend earnestly for the purity and exclusivity of the Gospel of God... **complete here:** <https://conta.cc/3zTTLTy>]

This month (10/21) we celebrate the 504th anniversary of the historic Reformation and all it accomplished! Our sovereign LORD began setting many captives free from the bondage of religious deception with the truth of His Word. ***It was the Word of God preached by men of God, empowered by the Spirit of God that produced children of God, all for the glory of God.***

### **Why Was the Reformation Necessary?**

As the Reformers were abiding in God's Word, they realized the Roman Catholic Church was under divine condemnation for preaching a distorted Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). **Catholicism was (and still is) distorting God's Gospel of grace alone**, through faith alone, in Christ alone. They distorted the Gospel by adding requirements for salvation including sacraments, good works, keeping the law, purgatory, and indulgences. **This corruption of the Gospel continues to lead Catholics down the wide road to destruction (Mat. 7:13).** As God opened the eyes of the Reformers to see the light of the Gospel and the glory of Christ, they began proclaiming it and calling Catholics to repentance.

Rome's corruption of the Gospel included using its heretical priesthood to *continue* on an altar Christ's *finished* work of redemption on a cross. This was an outright rejection of the Lord's victory cry on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The Reformers knew from Scripture that Jesus died

once, for all sin, for all time and there are no more offerings for sin (Hebrews 10:12, 14, 18). Since the altar was no longer needed, the Reformers replaced it with a pulpit and the Word of God became the central focus of worship.

**The Reformation was also necessary because the Catholic Church had drifted into [multiple expressions of] apostasy.** It had departed from the faith of the apostles to follow doctrines of demons that included forbidding marriage to its clergy (1 Tim. 4:1-3). Catholicism also embraced the first lie of Satan in the garden when the serpent said to Eve, "You surely will not die" if you break God's command. **This demonic doctrine continues with the Catholic teaching of "venial" sins, which declares such sins do not cause death, only temporal punishment in purgatory.** Catholics need to know that all sins are mortal and the punishment is death (Rom. 6:23). The Catholic Church's apostasy was officially and dogmatically documented at the Council of Trent, with over 100 anathemas that condemn Christians.

### **What Did the Reformation Accomplish?**

**The Reformers reestablished the Word of God as the supreme authority for faith.** They used the words *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone) to declare the Bible is sufficient and the ultimate authority over popes, traditions, and church councils (2 Tim. 3:15-16). As the inspired Word of God, Scripture must be used to test and correct all other authorities.

**The Reformers also reestablished the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Head of His Church,** which He purchased with His own blood (Eph. 1:22, Acts 20:28). The Reformers rejected the pope as the head of the church. In fact, Martin Luther declared, "We are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist. I declare that I owe the pope no other obedience than that of Antichrist."

**The Reformers also made the Bible available to the people in their own language.** They soon discovered they could be [TRANSFORMED!] by reading the Bible unaided by priests and sacraments. The truth was setting them free from religious bondage. This caused the pope to put a stop to this

mass exodus by once again putting the Bible on their list of forbidden books.

**Another accomplishment was the recovery of the most important doctrine of justification, which answers the most important question, "How can a sinner become right with God?"** You can hear how many ways the Catholic Church had distorted the biblical teaching of justification here at the eighteen minute mark. [Go here... <https://conta.cc/3zTTLTy> ... Scroll down to this point in the article]

### **How Can We Remember the Reformation?**

As we remember the Reformation this year, let us also remember the 1.3 billion Catholics who are perishing with a misplaced faith. We need to encourage them to do what the apostle Paul did for his salvation (Phil 3:3-9). They need to exchange their apostate religion for a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ alone. Please know that we have many resources to help you evangelize those who are perishing → ... <https://conta.cc/3zTTLTy>

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**FIVE BIBLICAL THEMES WHICH WERE CENTRAL TO THE Reformation and I hope these are CENTRAL to each of us!** (Unfortunately, I do not know who wrote the following)

**1. *Sola Scriptura: Scripture Alone***— The Scripture alone is the final authority for what we must believe and how we must live. For centuries the Roman Catholic Church had asserted and still asserts its authority over the Bible. The authority of the Pope, tradition, and councils are all regarded as authorities along with and/or over the Bible. Against that view, the Reformers asserted ***Sola Scriptura***: the Bible, and the Bible alone, is our only infallible source of authority for faith and practice. **GRAND REALITY:** Long before it was the Reformed position; ***Sola Scriptura*** was and it is the BIBLICAL POSITION.

**2. *Sola Gratia: Grace Alone***— How can a sinful man become right with a holy God? This was the question that plagued Luther's conscience before he was converted. Romanism had developed an elaborate works-based system in response to that question. Rome's answer, while claiming to stand on

grace, actually involved human works and merit- which a sinner must perform sufficiently well before God if he would receive the blessing of salvation.

But through the study of the Scriptures the Reformers rediscovered that salvation is the gracious gift of God— man contributes nothing to it. Salvation is only by the grace of God. **The Reformers rediscovered Bible words like calling, election, and predestination, which magnify the grace of God in salvation.** These grand Biblical words/truths were rediscovered, having been largely forgotten or drained of their meaning by the medieval Catholic teachers.

**GRAND REALITY:** Sola Gratia / GRACE ALONE is not merely the ‘Reformed’ position; but long before the reformers, **Sola Gratia was and is the BIBLICAL POSITION.**

**3. Sola Fide: Faith Alone—** The Reformers taught that the means whereby a sinner is graciously justified before God is faith - **not faith plus merit or faith plus works - but faith alone.** Luther discovered that the Bible teaches that the sinner must place his trust in Jesus Christ in order to gain a right standing before God. Through faith alone the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed [GIVEN] to the one who believes. **GRAND REALITY:** Again, long before the Reformers, the BIBLE was and remains PLAIN: **Sola Fide is the BIBLICAL POSITION.**

**4. Solo Christo: Christ Alone—** The Reformation rejected Rome’s requirement that common church members put their faith implicitly in the church’s teachings. Instead, they argued, Jesus Christ alone is the proper object of faith. JESUS CHRIST alone is to be trusted for salvation- not priests, popes, councils, or traditions. The believing sinner does not need popes, priests, Mary, councils, traditions, etc... in order to REACH JESUS. **GRAND REALITY:** AGAIN, long before the Reformers, **Solo Christo was and is the BIBLICAL POSITION.**

**5. Soli Deo Gloria: The Glory of God Alone—** In the best sense the Reformation can be seen as a re-discovery of God; a re-awakening to the greatness and glory of the God of the Bible. It is God, not man, who belongs

at the center of our thoughts and view of the world. And it is God's glory alone that is to occupy first place in our motivations and desires as His children. He created us and the world for Himself, and He redeemed us for Himself. Our purpose is to glorify Him. **GRAND REALITY:** Again, long before the Reformation, the WORD OF GOD has always focused on the GLORY OF GOD. **Soli Deo Gloria was and is the BIBLICAL POSITION.**

**REALITY:** I for one... do not think in terms of 'What is the Reformed faith or the Reformed position— but, rather, what is the BIBLICAL position; what is the BIBLICAL FAITH? It is obvious that the Reformers did not invent these teachings.

They, BY AMAZING GRACE, rediscovered them in the Bible and brought them out into the light for all of God's people to experience! May we follow them, to the degree that they followed the LORD!

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James  
[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00 AM, 10/9/21 — Men's Bible Study: *THE BOOK OF JOB,***

***Chapter 10!*** (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study! OCT. 12 @ 11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER: 10, 17, 24, and 31**

**1. \*\*\* Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. \*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

**OCTOBER 10 @ 5:00 PM, FAITHFUL MEN, 1689 Confession of Faith**

**OCTOBER 17 ... LORD'S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service! // NO HOME GROUPS in October!**

**INSTEAD... 10/17/21... WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY WITH BOBBY & LINNET GUPTA**, from Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, India. They will meet with Sunday School Classes; BOBBY will preach during the 10:45AM service; and they will give a MISSIONARY REPORT at the 5:00pm service.

**OCTOBER 24, 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE** in the auditorium! A variety of singing/praise! PREACHING: James Poteete!

**OCTOBER 31! ... NO EVENING SERVICES** at the church building

**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— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!**

**1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are 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 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... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients!**

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

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

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

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The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment!

[COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](#)

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