

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. 46, November 16, 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!

**GIVING THANKS IN 2021! (Part 3) – THANKS-LIVING and THANKS- GIVING!
"We Give THANKS to God!" LET US ALL GIVE THANKS!**

In the sports world, we elevate those who win the top prizes! They are the ones who have put their whole heart into the game. They have refused to quit. They played hurt. They trained most diligently. They understood and paid the price of serious preparation for the next battle (game), etc. We love to read about them. Other players model after them... etc.

Following is the account of some who received a GREAT DISTINCTION of honor in their field! Surely, those who battle in the same arena will want to read about them, learn from them, take lessons from them, model after them, etc.!!

Twelve Early Martyrs in ancient Carthage, 180 AD, GAVE THANKS! Their crime? They were Christians who refused to compromise or recant. They would rather die than deny their faith and betray the LORD they loved! These seven men and five women were brought before the Roman proconsul Saturninus in Carthage, North Africa (Tunisia) on July 17, 180AD. He gave them an opportunity to recant: "You can win the indulgence of our lord the Emperor, if you **return to a sound mind.**"

Speratus, the apparent leader of the small group of faithful disciples, answered, 'We have never done ill, we have not lent ourselves to wrong, we have never spoken ill, **but when ill-treated we have given thanks...**' "We too are religious," answered the proconsul, "and our religion is simple,

and we swear by the genius of our lord the Emperor, and pray for his welfare, as you also ought to do."

"The empire of this world I know not," explained Speratus, "but rather I serve that God, whom no man has seen, nor with these eyes can see. I have committed no theft; but if I have bought anything, I pay the tax; because **I know my Lord, the King of kings and Emperor of all nations.**" "Be not partakers of this folly," said the proconsul. **Cittinus, one of the faithful, said,** "We have none other to fear, save only our Lord God, who is in heaven."...

"Do you persist in being a Christian?" asked the proconsul. "I am a Christian," he answered. All the others agreed... The proconsul Saturninus then read the decree [their sentence] from a tablet: "Speratus, Nartzalus, Cittinus, Donata, Vestia, Secunda and the rest having confessed that they live according to the Christian rite, since after opportunity offered them of **returning to the custom of the Romans they have obstinately persisted,** it is determined that they be put to the sword." **"WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD,"** said Speratus. **"Today we are martyrs in heaven; thanks be to God,"** added Nartzalus.

The proconsul then gave the order that their sentence be publicly announced by the herald: "Speratus, Nartzalus, Cittinus, Veturius, Felix, Aquilinus, Lætantius, Januaria, Generosa, Vestia, Donata and Secunda, I have ordered to be executed." **They all said: "THANKS BE TO GOD!"** "And so they all together were crowned with martyrdom; and they reign with the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. Amen!"
<http://www.shepherd.to/Persecution/martyr/early-church/twelve-martyrs.htm>

What is the level of my GRATITUDE and ThanksGIVING!

Lyle Eggleston served as a missionary for many years in a little town on the rocky coast of northern Chile. In time, the congregation grew to about 80 adults, but Eggleston was concerned **that the Christians in that area didn't seem able to support their own national pastor. The people were very poor, and the church's offerings amounted to no more than six dollars a month.** One day, Eggleston brought the problem to the Lord during a definite time of prayer. A few weeks later he stopped to visit a

middle-aged couple, new converts who had begun the habit of reading their Bibles every day.

Soon, upon reading in 1 Corinthians, they had questions about 'GIVING UNTO THE LORD!' **"We ran into that in our reading and we don't fully understand it."** Eggleston didn't really want to answer the question, for he knew that Manuel and his wife were unemployed and on the verge of destitution. They were somehow managing to feed themselves and their 25 Rhode Island hens on the income from the eggs laid each day.

Nevertheless, he turned to 1 Corinthians 16 and 2 Corinthians 8, 9 where Paul urged believers to lay aside each week a portion of their income to the Lord. **The following Sunday Manuel handed Lyle an envelope and, smiling, said, "That's our offering unto the LORD!" Inside were a few bills amounting to about 19 cents.**

The next Sunday afternoon, the couple flagged down Lyle as he rode his bicycle past their house. They had some exciting news. **The Tuesday morning after they had given their offering, there's wasn't a bite for breakfast nor any money.**

Their first impulse was to take the few pesos that had accumulated in their "Offering Box," but on second thought they said, "No. That's God's money. We will go without breakfast this morning."

There was nothing to do but tend the hens. Much to their surprise, there were eggs in the nests that had usually at that earlier had been empty. Later in the day, a little man came along with a pushcart wanting fertilizer. They cleaned out their hen house, and the manure brought a good price. After buying groceries, there was enough money left over for the wife to purchase a pair of shoes, so he rode the bus 12 kilometers around the bay into a larger town.

There she bumped into a nephew she had not seen in five years, and who, to her utter surprise, owned a shoe store. After she had found just the pair she wanted, he wrapped them for her and handed her the package with these words, "Oh no, Aunt, I can't take your money. These shoes are a gift from me."

The following week, Manuel got a job on a project that would last for two years, and soon the little couple was tithing on a much larger salary. Word got around the church, and others began experimenting with giving.

Soon the church's income began to rise dramatically, and they were able to pay their own rent and utility bills, support a national pastor who was working with Indians, and, in a short time, they were able to call and finance a pastor of their own.

Lyle Eggleston and his wife were able to move to a new location and start a new work as the little church grew in numbers, size, property, and faith. **"We had offered up a bit of prayer and 19 cents," Lyle later said, "and God did the rest!"**

A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF 'THANKS-GIVING' unto the LORD

The Church at Macedonia is a powerful example for us, as set forth in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5: "Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ²that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God."

Comment: [1] Manuel and his wife out of love for the LORD wanted to give. **They did not give to get. They just gave.** In their case, almost immediately they and others began to not only have an increase in spiritual prosperity but also of physical blessings. Praise the LORD!

[2] The churches in Macedonia were exceedingly poor and also persecuted. Nevertheless, their love for the LORD JESUS CHRIST overflowed with joy and generosity. There is no recorded record of an improvement in their personal finances or of persecution ceasing! BUT ALSO: there is no indication that their joy diminished!

WHEN WE FIRST GIVE OURSELVES UNTO THE LORD, (We are so aware that God has already blessed us with THE GREATEST OF GIFTS, His Son!), that our reasons for joy and generosity are already settled and unshakable!

That's the motivation for THANKS-GIVING!

GIVING UNTO THE LORD FROM GRATITUDE!

In earlier years, many American Christians would have heard of **R.G. LeTourneau**, designer and manufacturer of heavy earth-moving equipment. His machinery transformed vast acres of marshland into New York's Idlewild (now Kennedy) Airport, tore open the wilderness for the Alaskan Highway, made airstrips for the landing of the first Allied fighter planes on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, and cleared the debris from bombed-out European cities after World War II.

In the early years of his business, **LeTourneau went into partnership with God**. By this he did not lower grace to the level of a bargain. Rather he said, "Because I believe that God wants businessmen as well as preachers to be His servants, I believe that a factory can be dedicated to His service as well as a church."

In 1935 he irrevocably assigned over 90 percent of the company's profits to the LeTourneau Foundation, described as a "not-for-profit corporation **whose income and capital can be used only for the cause of Christ**". (Moving Heaven and Earth, Donald Ackland, Iversen-Ford Associates, New York).

Countless Christian schools and organizations in America have been the recipients of his gift of giving. Scarcely a mission field exists in all five continents where some devoted worker has not been aided through money from this foundation. Altogether, millions of dollars have been given to further the Lord's work.

LeTourneau's Testimony:

MY LIFE VERSE— I have never been much of a preacher of tithing. My Life Verse has been Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

MY PHILOSOPHY has been— We should serve God because we love, not because we are making a bargain with Him. Many marriages go on the rocks because it was a bargain rather than love. You do something for me and I'll do something for you. In the same way people say, IF I DO THIS FOR GOD will He also do something for me? That's not love, it's a bargain.

- ✓ I often say, **if you love the LORD** you will serve Him **and if you are not serving Him** it proves you don't love Him **and if you don't love Him** it proves you don't know him!

MY MOTTO has been— **Not how much of my money do I give unto the LORD but how much of God's money do I Keep for Myself!**

THE APPLICATION— I hope you are now beginning to understand what I meant when I began by saying that I'm not much of a preacher of tithing. **If under the law** the people of God gave one-tenth to the LORD, shame on us, living under grace, if we don't do better. The tithe may be a place to begin if you are not now giving to the LORD, but it's no place to stop. You see what I mean?

- ✓ **If you get a vision of what our salvation cost,** IF YOU see Christ on the cross, the cruel nails in his hands and feet, the mocking crowd, and the weight of our sin... paying the penalty for you and for me— **it will put your service and giving on a different plane.**
- ✓ He gave himself willingly to give us salvation from sin. If this grips us, we can't help but love Him. We will say with the song writer— **"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!"**

THE CONCLUSION— Only the grace of God can save us from a superficial declaration of love for God.

True love based on an understanding of God's grace and deep gratitude for the gift of salvation through our LORD Jesus Christ— these will settle the problem of "what should I give God" because my thinking will be turned around to consider that all I am and have belong to Him and I am a steward for Him while serving him in this life.

It's easy to sing, "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise." **Only**

God's grace in a life can make it come true. Man, selfishly inclined, can't do it in his own power— IT TAKES GOD'S POWER! [The above is from R. G. LeTourneau's autobiography, Mover of Men and Mountains.]

ThanksGIVING is in view of all the mercies and goodness of God— I now GIVE MYSELF wholly unto the LORD and insist on partaking of the privilege of sacrificially giving offerings unto the LORD for the advance of His kingdom work!

O... DOES THE WORD 'SACRIFICE' have any good connections with gratitude and THANKS_LIVING and THANKS_GIVING?

INDEED: Thanksgiving and Praise Often Involve Sacrifice:

1. Let us give verbal praise and thanksgiving unto the LORD: "Through Jesus, therefore, **let us continually offer to God a SACRIFICE OF PRAISE**, the fruit of lips that confess His name." (Hebrews 13:15)

2. The most astounding example of THANKSGIVING comes from the lips of Jesus! Standing before His disciples, Jesus "*took the cup, and gave thanks*" (Matthew 26:27).

As you know, that cup contained wine which was representative of His own blood which He was soon to shed for the sins of the whole world. It was the cup of death, **and yet with the very shadow of the Cross upon Him, Jesus gave THANKS!**

Crowded into that cup were

- (1) Your sins and mine;
- (2) The wrath of God against those sins; and
- (3) The very sacrifice of Himself for us.

Instead of shrinking back, JESUS quietly "took the cup, and gave thanks!"

O how doomed we all would be were it not for the miracles which come forth from the fountain of **JESUS' SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING!**

NOW: Now, many more miracles wait to be manifested, especially upon the undeserving ones of our world!

Let us walk in the steps of Jesus.

Let the miracles come forth... as we OVER-FLOW with THANKS unto the LORD! [Edited from THANK YOU THERAPY, by Don Baker]

Grace! Peace! THANKSGIVING!

And Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

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

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study! EARLY 2022 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, NOVEMBER 21, 28

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

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

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 21 ... LORD'S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service! // HOME GROUPS!

NOVEMBER 28 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium!
A GIVING THANKS... THANKSGIVING FOCUS! PREACHING: Lukus Haskins

**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 it. 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! |

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! BE PREVENTIVE!

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. EXCELLENT:

→ <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!**

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