

January 1, 2022 * 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study: *THE BOOK OF JOB, CHAPTER 18*** (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)

[THE NEXT 'Post Office MAILED OUT' NEWSLETTER is scheduled for 1/4/22]

**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. 52, December 30, 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!

A GRAND GIFT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS AND THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN GIVE: ENCOURAGEMENT!

All of us have disappointments - broken dreams - disillusionment's - crisis - anxiety - turmoil - defeat. It's easy for negativism and cynicism to creep into our lives. As someone has said, ***"The light at the end of the tunnel is the headlamp of an oncoming train!"***

According to the Bureau of Standards in Washington, a dense fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of **less than one glass of water**. That amount of water is divided into about 60 billion tiny droplets. Yet, when those minute particles settle over San Francisco they can almost blot out everything from our sight.

Too often we live in a fog— cupfuls of troubles cloud our vision and dampen our spirit.

Discouragement is seeing only the fog. Encouragement is when we help each other to see that the fog is not as dense as we think - AND that, by God's grace, we can move through it into God's light.

MOREOVER, the world is full of discouragers— there is plenty of opportunity to carry out a grand Christian ASSIGNMENT: LET US ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER! Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man/woman/youth/child on their feet.

THE APOSTLE PAUL on ENCOURAGEMENT:

1 Thessalonians 5:11-28

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Here is what the Apostle Paul says: *“Therefore* - In the preceding verses, Paul has been talking about things that really can discourage us (marital difficulties - social problems - the death of family members) *Therefore*, Paul says, because of all that I've just said - **“encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”** In verses 12-28, Paul focuses us on three points of encouragement.

1. ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE WORKING!

The people on the front lines of Christian service are OFTEN the ones who are being shot at the most. SAD REALITY: when you seek to go forward in SERVING JESUS CHRIST - you will find a tremendous number of people who will give you solid reasons why it can't be done - how you're foolish to try - who the people are who won't support you. And if you fail... there's a long line of people waiting to tell you, *“I told you so.”*

Sunday School teachers - Choir members - Godly husbands who are living in fidelity towards their wives - Wives who are living Godly lives in difficult marriages - Parents trying to raise their children to know Jesus as their Savior and live in obedience to Him - Workers trying to maintain honesty and integrity on the job - PASTORS who seek to PREACH the Word of God, without compromise— ARE ALL HAVING TO BATTLE AGAINST DISCOURAGEMENT!

WHEN A CHRISTIAN Serves Christ and seeks to obey Him— and Satan and this society will throw everything against you. ALL

OF THIS 'FOG' is designed to give strength to a spirit of discouragement.

NO WONDER, THE HOLY SPIRIT moves **Paul to say in verse 12:**

"We beseech you - we ask you - brethren, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."

In verse 14: *"And we exhort you - we urge you - brethren, admonish - warn - the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."*

In verse 15: - don't shoot at those who are seeking to serve God - encourage them - *"esteem them very highly"* - lift them up - show them respect - let them know how much you appreciate them and the example they're setting - because they need the encouragement.

2. LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

"When people are hurting, they need more than an accurate analysis and diagnosis. More than professional advice.... They need to sense that we are there because we care... truth and tact make great bedfellows!" [NOTICE: BOTH/AND.... NOT: EITHER/OR!]

In verse 26, God is saying through Paul that we should look for ways to encourage, to comfort, take care of, and to do good to each other.

3. ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO FOCUS ON GOD

THE HOLY SPIRIT also moves Paul to say that the best thing we can do for someone who's discouraged is to help them focus on God. To move away from the clichés and "nice things" that we end up saying - to speak words that really matter - really bring healing and comfort.

First he says - verse 16 - to: *"Rejoice always"*

Realize and remind each other of God's presence even in the midst of difficult circumstances. ***That's what joy is - realizing the presence of God in our lives, regardless of the circumstances!*** But let us understand:

We must first, in obedient faith, make the choice to walk all over our feelings and self-pity emotions and simply, ***"REJOICE ALWAYS!"***

Second - verse 17: "Pray constantly" - and in verse 25 Paul says, ***"Brethren, pray for us."*** - be in prayer for one another. Sometimes this is all we can do for others - and in reality it's the best thing that we can do for others - NAMELY, to bring each other and our circumstances before the throne of the Almighty God. **MOREOVER, in verse 19: "Do not quench the Spirit - don't doubt His work in you."**

Third - verse 18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This is not natural. And, probably the last thing we want to hear from someone - while we're in the middle of a time of depression and discouragement is - ***"God wants you [ME! YOU! US! ... to give thanks."***

BUT IT IS THE MOST NEEDFUL— FOR AS ROMANS 1:21 reveals: ALL OF THE WICKED SINFULNESS THAT IS OUTLINED IN ROMANS 1:21b-32 is rooted in AND FLOWS FROM two root sins:

1. An unwillingness to submit to GOD for Him to function as sovereign God in our lives!

2. A REFUSAL TO BE THANKFUL! (Romans 1:21)

How can we give thanks while in the midst of a fog of discouragement?

BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE A TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF PROMISES! WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL ABOUT; AND THESE PROMISES DO NOT CEASE

BECAUSE WE ARE PRESENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF DISCOURAGEMENT!

Verse 20: “do not despise prophesying” - listen to the word of God.

Verse 21: “but test everything; hold fast to what is good” - study the Bible - know the word of God and how it relates to you. Do you know the promises of God?

Verse 22: “abstain from every form of evil.” Hang onto the promises of God. Don't give up your faith and Christian walk because of changing circumstances.

Verse 23: “May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly - may God Himself keep you pure and devoted to Him - *and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Verse 25: He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.” This is the focal point- God who called you as His child will fulfill His promises to you. He will keep you - He will preserve you even at the end of time when Jesus returns. And there are times when we need to be gently reminded of this and give thanks! **SO:**

1. Encourage those who are striving to serve God.
2. Seek to do what is good for each other.
3. Help each other to focus on God - His presence - His working in our lives - His promises!

One man - let's call him Bill

- BILL lost his job. - Bill took work as a hod carrier, simply to put bread on the table. (Hod Carrier: One who carries bricks and mortar in a wooden trough, which has a long handle)

Bill was suddenly plunged into a drastically different world - instead of going to an office each day, Bill was hauling loads of concrete block up to the fifth level of a construction site.

Gone was the piped-in music in the corridors - now he had to endure blaring transistors. Any girl who walked by the construction site was subject to rude remarks and whistles from the other workers - and he had to listen to all this.

Profanity shot through the air, especially from the foreman - whose primary tactics were intimidation. Bill had been the butt of more than one joke when his lack of experience caused him to do something foolish. The stories were retold constantly thereafter.

Near the end of the third week, Bill felt that he couldn't take it anymore. *"I'll work till lunch time this morning,"* he told himself, *"and then that's it. I'm going home. I just can't handle any more of this."*

Shortly before noon, the foreman came around with the paychecks. As he handed Bill his envelope, the foreman made his first civil comment to Bill in three weeks.

"Hey, there's a woman working in the front office who knows you. Says she takes care of your kids sometimes."

The foreman named the woman, who sometimes helped in the nursery of the church where Bill and his family worshipped.

When Bill opened his paycheck envelope, he found, along with his check, a handwritten note from the woman.

"When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer with it. Just wanted you to know that I'm praying for you these days."

Bill stared at the note, astonished at God's timing. He hadn't even known the woman worked for this company. **Here at his lowest hour, she had given him the encouragement to go on, to push another wheelbarrow of cement up that ramp.**

LET US ALL encourage ONE ANOTHER this week:

First - find someone who needs encouragement - look for someone who may not be noticed by everyone else. Pray for that person and their circumstances. And then, in a creative way - do one thing that will encourage them to keep going and to focus on God and His promises.

Second - when someone encourages you - tell them. Just let them know, *“You really encouraged me. Thanks!”*

[This message is edited from Pastor Stephen Muncherian]

FINALLY, WHAT COULD BE

MORE NEEDED,

MORE IMPORTANT,

MORE VITAL

THAN TO GIVE THE GOSPEL TO OUR WORLD WITH LIFESTYLE AND WITH THE ACTUAL WORDS OF THE GOSPEL!

NEWS NOTES:

Next Study, scheduled for January 1, 2022 * 8:00 AM, — Men’s Bible Study: *THE BOOK OF JOB, CHAPTER 18*** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee’s Biscuits are available!*)

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

SUNDAY SERVICES, JANUARY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30... / 2022

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

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

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

*** JANUARY 2 @ NOON... Covered Dish FELLOWSHIP Meal**

**** JANUARY 9 @ 5:00 PM, FAITHFUL MEN, 1689 Confession of Faith**

***** JANUARY 16 ... LORD'S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service! // HOME GROUPS!**

****** JANUARY 23, 5:00pm- SPECIAL Church Wide SERVICE in the auditorium! The Southside Elders HAVE MET WITH EACH OF THESE COUPLES: Adam and Bethany Troutt; Devin and Jasmine Purdue; and James and Laurel Poteete**

— THE ELDERS are recommending Adam Troutt, Devin Purdue, and James Poteete to serve as Deacons.

On 2/23/22 at 5:00pm we call our ENTIRE CHURCH FAMILY

1) To Hear the recommendation of the Elders;

2) To hear the testimonies of these three men and their wives; and

3) To give your own testimonies of witnessing the EVIDENCE of servanthood from these men and their wives.

******* JANUARY 30 ... NO EVENING SERVICE**

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! 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! 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! => <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/>