

# 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 47, No. 6, February 15, 2022** / 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!"***

## **WALKING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS!**

(1 Peter 2:18-3:12)

IS GOD'S LOVE MISSING IN MY HOME, CHURCH? NO! I ... WE LOVE EVERYBODY!! WE DID NOT FORGET VALENTINE'S DAY!! GREAT; but let's be sure we are speaking about GOD'S KIND OF LOVE!! **God's love is patient and kind with attitudes and words and sacrificial action on behalf of even the unworthy, the undeserving, and the unresponsive.**

***"God's love in us and through us is patient and kind, looks for a way to be constructive, is not envious or boastful, is not rude and is not selfish, does not insist on its own way, bears no malice, it not quick to take offence, keeps no score of wrongs, rejoices in the truth, can overlook faults, has no limits to its endurance, exercises faith, keeps up hope and endures without limit!"*** (Quote is edited from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, The N.T. from 26 Translations)

God is extravagant in the giving of His love. God does not sugar-coat the costliness of His love. **Moreover, God floods the heart of all those whom He redeems with His love by the**

**indwelling Holy Spirit!** (Romans 5:5) Thus, Christians are EMPOWERED and called upon to be channels of His love. **God's love is never more powerfully SEEN than when beholding JESUS walking the road to Calvary and laying down His life on the cross.** WHY SHOULD we be still and BEHOLD JESUS as He 'Walked the Calvary Road?' BECAUSE, AS CHRISTIANS,

\*\*\* WE are called to Christ-likeness- Romans 8:28-29. \*\*\* We are commissioned to 'walk in the steps' of Jesus- 1 Peter 2:20-24. \*\*\* We are changed into Christ-likeness by BEHOLDING Jesus- 2 Cor. 3:18.

**THEREFORE,**

**I. CONSIDER JESUS! Every Step He took was leading to Calvary! IT WAS NOT FAIR! BEHOLD THE INJUSTICE! — DRINK DEEPLY! BE ASTOUNDED:**

JESUS was forsaken and betrayed by His own friends. In His hours of deepest need His disciples slept, then fled; and Peter cried out with curses, 'I do not know this man!'

JESUS had labored tirelessly on behalf of others: Healing them, feeding them, preaching and teaching the way of salvation. Yet in the hour of His trial and crucifixion, no one stood up for Him or with Him.

The Sanhedrin, the governing body of the Jews, broke no less than 15 laws in their arrest and trial of Jesus. Jesus, the Lawgiver, was denied the just principles of the law!

Pilate, representing the Roman Government, knowingly betrayed innocent blood for the sake of personal political expediency.

There was the mocking, the whips, the spitting and the open shame. All of this was followed by the rough, wooden cross upon His already bleeding back, as He willingly made His way along the road to Calvary.

**On Calvary, JESUS was nailed to the cross— all this and more for sinners such as you and me.**

**MORE?** Yes, all that we have shared thus far pales into the background as while on the Cross— JESUS became sin for sinners, paying the sin debt for sinners by satisfying the holy wrath of God!

His footprints along the way to Calvary were stained with His own blood. Who can do justice in presenting these awful scenes? Truly, they reveal the reality that **NO ONE has ever been so mistreated!** NO ONE has ever suffered such injustice as Jesus!  
**And yet,**

## **II. Gaze upon JESUS and See: FROM JESUS,**

There was no resentment. There were no plans for revenge. He had no bitterness. He held no grudges. There was no self-pity. He never demanded His rights. There was no anger, no depression.

**INSTEAD, we find that there was,**

1. Silent Suffering for the sake of others.
2. Meekness, Gentleness, Humility, and Acceptance.
3. Love and Forgiveness.
4. Prayer for those who had betrayed and tormented Him.
5. Abiding trust in His Father!
6. Sweet Submission to the will of His Father!

**O WHAT AMAZING FOOTPRINTS JESUS LEFT— and in them we are called to walk!**

**III. Look yet again— Jesus has set before us an Extraordinary Example of:**

1. Silence in Suffering.
2. Nonresistance.
3. Returning Good for Evil.
4. Love.
5. Forgiveness.
6. Abiding Trust in His Father.
7. SUBMISSION to His Father's sovereign will.

**HOWEVER...** His silence in suffering was not a SECRET PITY PARTY, nor a state of Passivity! For at the same time, He was anointed with the oil of GLADNESS above all others who have ever lived. What was His secret?

In Hebrews 12:2 we are exhorted to be those who are ***“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

**IV. IN STARK CONTRAST the Road of the World looms before us! BEWARE! A MULTITUDE OF VOICES are calling out to US:**

**Live for yourself:** Pleasure, fame, fortune... all for self. Glory and Honor for self. **Justify self. Defend self. Blame others, slander, gossip.**  
**Fill the air waves with Smokescreens.**

**Seek Revenge, Be Bitter or full of Envy and Hate.  
 Refuse to Forgive and to Sacrificially Love.  
 Trust in self and in those who will encourage self.  
 Rebel against God-given Authority. Be a victim.**

**QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT MY FOOT PRINTS— UPON WHICH ROAD ARE THEY? Each of us must ask the same question—  
 “ON WHICH ROAD AM I TRAVELING?”**

**V. HERE’S THE BOTTOM LINE: AS A CHRISTIAN, I MUST WALK IN THE STEPS OF JESUS!**

**1. I MUST walk in the steps of Jesus because** that is the Essence of what it means to be a real Christian! We are called to walk in His steps: John 10: 27-28; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6

**2. I MUST walk in the steps of Jesus because** that is what God commands in His WORD! Rom. 12:19, 21; Matthew 5:44; 1 Peter 2:18-21.

Real Christians have the Holy Spirit’s COMPELLING INDWELLING—EMPOWERING us to heed the voice of JESUS!

**3. I MUST walk in the Steps of Jesus, less my actions and reactions** to circumstances and people CAUSE me to deny Jesus, grieve the Holy Spirit; and rob me of a life of joy and amazing miracles!

**The Epistle to the Philippians, written from prison, testifies to a life of joy in spite of people and circumstances— when we walk in the steps of JESUS!**

**4. I MUST walk in the steps of Jesus**, for God has not authorized me to take His Divine Prerogative! (Romans 12:19-21; Matthew 5:44-47; Romans 12:14-21)

God has not called us to focus on the failures of others;; or to get even; or to get revenge; or to DIVORCE. He has called us to love, to bless, to pray for, and to do good to even our enemies; and to seek reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

**Note: Before taking any attitude and/or before taking any action, I must ask: “Will my attitude, words and/or actions glorify Jesus and proclaim that I am AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST, a minister of reconciliation?”**

**5. I MUST walk in the Steps of Jesus**, remembering that God has personally designed my own Calvary Road for His glory and for my good! (Rom. 8:28; Gen. 45:8; 50:19-20) O HAPPY DAY when we rest in the grand sovereignty of what God brings and allows! Such rest brings a song and **PEACE LIKE A RIVER** flooding our souls; and the ‘saving’ of others!

**6. I MUST walk in the steps of Jesus**, less I lose perspective! (Genesis 50:19-20; Philippians 1:12-14) O happy day, when with the apostle Paul I scan back over all the troubles, trials, tribulations, persecutions, injustices, and say, **“ALL THESE THINGS HAPPENED SO AS TO FURTHER THE GOSPEL!”**

Whatever it is that got through God’s ‘screen’ has come because above all else, GOD WANTS to further the gospel through you, through me; and He does so as He leads us in the steps of JESUS! **OUR OWN PERSONAL ‘CALVARY ROAD’ of walking in the steps of JESUS IS WELL MARKED:**

**I must deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow JESUS!**

**POWERFUL REALITY:** A chief way that God extends the gospel to others is **as they see us RESPONDING CHRIST-LIKE when life tumbles** in with sorrow, grief, pain, persecution, disappointment, or injustice, etc.!

## **7. I MUST walk in the steps of Jesus because**

**\*\*\* LOVE** is better than hate!

**\*\*\* FORGIVENESS** is better than bitterness

**\*\*\* FAITH** is better than unbelief!

**\*\*\* TRUST IN GOD** is better than despair!

**\*\*\* OBEDIENCE TO GOD** is better than rebellion!

**8. I MUST WALK in the steps of Jesus because SUCH IS THE PATH where supernatural GRACE is found—** where POWER AND DESIRE to follow Jesus rises up within me **and where** I experience **anointing** from God and 'CUPS RUNNING OVER!' (Ps 23)

## **VI. IT IS TIME TO GO FORWARD IN THE STEPS OF JESUS.**

**1. Often, the next forward step must be one of repentance!** **As I repent of my previous** GOING MY OWN WAY, LEANING TO MY OWN UNDERSTANDING, DRINKING IN COUNSEL THAT HAS JUSTIFIED MY FLESH AND CONDEMNING OTHERS — **THEN** Floodgates of MERCY and GRACE will come open! Proverbs 28:13

**2. Next, I MUST** announce to myself a Proclamation of Reception of my DIVINELY designed Calvary Road! Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 2:19-23

**3. FINAL REALITY:** Jesus walked the Calvary Road to CALVARY! We get on the Calvary Road at Calvary by the MIRACLE OF NEW

BIRTH; and walk in the power of His resurrection, step by step...

**Till we get home!** [A small pamphlet, WALKING THE CALVARY ROAD, by J.D. McIntyre used in the above article]

**MERCY, GRACE, and PEACE TO ALL IN CHRIST!**

James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **NEWS NOTES:**

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

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study, February 22, @ 11:00 AM**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES, February 20, 27... / 2022**

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

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

## **ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**1. 2/20/22 ... Deacon Ordination service during the worship hour. The climax of the service will be at THE LORD'S TABLE**

**2. 2/27/22 ...** back on our regular FORTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 5PM... (Adam, Bradley, and others will give specific preparation for this Service.... and Adam will be preaching...)

**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 [IN HOMES THROUGH FEBRUARY... FRESH START 3/2 BACK AT CHURCH BUILDING]**

**\*\* Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]**

**\*\*\* 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/>