

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. 7, February 22, 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!**

SCRIPTURE ALONE or the Traditions of Man!

*** **SOLA SCRIPTURA (Scripture Alone)** is a term to communicate, "that Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church, **and is to be interpreted by each individual** for himself; **with the gracious help of the Holy Ghost**, who is promised to every Christian (1 John 2:20-27); and with the assistance, though not by the authority, of his fellow Christians. MOREOVER: Creeds and confessions bind only those who voluntarily profess them, and as to matter, **they bind only so far as they affirm truly what the Bible teaches, and because the Bible does so teach.**" (A. A. Hodge)

*** **"The Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only infallible rule of faith and practice!"** (Charles Hodge)

*** **SOLA SCRIPTURA / SCRIPTURE ALONE**— "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalm 19:7) "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

How Important Is Sola Scriptura? ** If we believe that the Bible is the very word of God and infallible, we will develop one conception of Christianity.

** If we believe that it is only a collection of human writings, perhaps considerably above the average in its spiritual and moral teachings but nevertheless containing many errors, we will develop a radically different conception of Christianity, if, indeed, what we then have can legitimately be called Christianity. Hence we can hardly over-estimate the importance of a correct doctrine concerning the inspiration of the Scriptures." (Lorraine Boettner)

** Likewise, if we claim to believe the Bible is the very word of God and even infallible; but that only some specific group of men or a pope can rightly interpret the Bible— then we will develop a conception of Christianity that is radically foreign to the Bible... that is NOT Christ's church.

Biblical Christianity can only be built on Sola Scriptura!

The Church teaches truth! [Truth: CHRIST as revealed in the Word of God and illuminated by the Holy Spirit upon the Word!] **The Church calls men to Christ** and, in so doing, functions as the pillar and foundation thereof. **The Church does not add revelation or rule over Scripture.** The Church being the bride of Christ listens to the Word of Christ, which is found in God-breathed Scripture.

[BEWARE OF Cults, Harlot Churches, and ANY who value their opinions over the pure revealed Word of God ADD to and/or deny or subtract from the Word of God; and place themselves and/or their leaders OVER the Word of God.]

BE ALERT: Christian books, Pastors, teachers, and the STUDY NOTES in your favorite STUDY BIBLE are NOT WITHOUT ERROR.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES. ALWAYS PLACE THE WORD OF GOD ABOVE ALL OTHER SOURCES!

Sola Scriptura is not a denial of the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and enlightening the Church. The doctrine of Sola Scriptura, simply stated, is that **the Scriptures and the Scriptures alone are sufficient to function as the "rule of faith" for the Church.**

All that one must believe to be a Christian is found in Scripture and in no other source. That which is not found in Scripture is not binding upon the Christian conscience.

[MOREOVER, true guidance by the gracious aid of the Holy Spirit will always agree with the Holy Spirit breathed-out Scriptures!]

The Christian Church looks at the Scriptures as the only and sufficient rule of faith; and the Church is always subject to the Word, and is constantly reformed thereby. (The above points are edited from James R. White; with added comments in brackets)

THE TRADITIONS OF MAN— the World is in United Approval! (An upcoming example)

LENT: March 1, 2022 is Fat Tuesday, the last day of the Mardi Gras Carnival season; and it always falls the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of the 40 days of Lent. Lent's 40 days concludes with Easter.

Easter is a day that is honored by nearly all of contemporary Christianity! **Churches and pastors have decreed that Easter is the day to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (The Bible does not even HINT this!)**

In Evangelical/Bible-believing Churches, Easter often involves a church service at sunrise; and an Easter egg hunt, etc. **'Easter sermons' are packed with references about Easter as if it is absolute Bible truth that Easter = the Resurrection!**

IN CLEAR BIBLICAL REALITY, Easter has nothing to do with, no connection to our LORD JESUS CHRIST!

QUESTION: Does God give us the liberty to substitute our well-intended human ideas in place of Scripture's divine revelation?

HERE'S A little HISTORY behind one of Man's Beloved traditions!

Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Ash Wednesday/Lent **is a time to prepare** for Easter by observing a period of fasting, moderation and spiritual discipline.

During Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The practice, which dates from the early Middle Ages, is common among Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Episcopalians, and many Lutherans. It has also been adopted by some Methodists and Presbyterians. More and more Evangelicals, including Baptists, are getting on board with the traditions of man.

TRADITIONS OF MAN— IN THE BIBLE, Easter is NEVER mentioned, observed, or associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **THAT BEING TRUE, HOW has Easter obtained such a POWERFUL grip on even genuine Christians— HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WHY DOES SOMETHING SO PLAINLY NON-BIBLICAL REMAIN SACRED AND DEEPLY DEFENDED BY CHRISTIANS?** There are several related answers:

1. We like to reserve for ourselves the right to determine what is and is not acceptable in worship.
2. **If we practice something and if we don't see any harm or wrong in it— that settles it! It's our decision.**
3. IF WE ARE PLEASED with something and if we are sincerely doing it as worship to God— therefore God must be pleased, even though it is contrary to or foreign to what He has revealed and/or commanded.

4. **MOREOVER, we have a natural dislike for God's absolute authority.**

5. We are easy prey for deceptions, even as was Eve.

6. **We easily fall in love with our ideas— as Cain with his offering and as Israel with their golden calf.**

7. **And it seems that many pastors** today take their cue from Aaron, the great pragmatic facilitator, who apparently believed that his calling was to please the congregation rather than to obey God! (Exodus 32:1-6)

8. Humans are naturally CROWD FOLLOWERS! (The Scripture reveals that again and again...

Some claim that Easter IS in the Bible! Yes, the word "Easter" is recorded once in the KJV. In Acts 12, we learn that the death of the apostle James by King Herod... so pleased the Jews that the apostle Peter was also taken prisoner by Herod. The plan was to later deliver him to the Jews. **Verse 3 says**, "Then were the days of unleavened bread." **Now read verse 4:** "And when he [Herod] had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; **intending after Easter** to bring him forth to the people."

REALITY: The word translated Easter in the KJV is the Greek word **pascha** (derived from the Hebrew word pesach; **and it is always means and is translated as Passover.** There is no original Greek word for Passover; for this reason, we find a Hebrew word used in the Greek New Testament. Other translations correctly render this word Passover.

QUANTAM LEAP: **Even if** one bows to the 'KJV is the ONLY true Bible folk' and grants that Herod indeed intended to speak of the pagan Easter— **there are**

STILL no verses, anywhere in the Bible, that hint, suggest, authorize, or endorse the keeping of the Easter celebration. There is zero Biblical connection of anything 'Easter' to Jesus.

Moreover, the Bible says nothing about celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus by means of sun rise services, Lent, eggs and egg hunts, baskets of candy, etc. **The histories of all of all these ‘Easter traditions’** are found in Babylon, Rome and/or later in the histories of various churches— but not in the Word of God!

Nevertheless, many argue that participating in the various Easter traditions of man is harmless!

BESIDES, we have a great host of the world’s most respected preachers, with Bibles in hand, preaching EASTER! That makes it OK!

Moreover, we believe that we accomplish much good by our traditions. **We set forth** our statistics of how many we say we got saved at an Easter egg hunt, etc. — that settles it. End of story. We are right and it is indeed our decision to do things our way.

Besides, we ‘prayed about it; and we have ‘peace’ about it!

QUESTIONS:

1. If plain Bible truth is expendable in one area— what about in other areas as well?

2. If the Bible is not our infallible guide and rule for doctrine and practice in one area— maybe it should not be in other areas as well! Which ones?

3. If we and our traditions get to decide what is and is not acceptable doctrine and practice— is anything not left subject to us?

4. IF we and our beloved traditions are embraced instead of obedience to the Word of God— are we comfortable with the fact that we are making our will sovereign over God’s will!

5. PLEASE REMEMBER: The real CORE SUBJECT of this article is not Lent or EASTER!

RATHER, this article is about our attitude toward the Word of God!

SOLA SCRIPTURA: WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

1. IT DOES NOT MATTER AT ALL— IF THE BIBLE IS NOT THE SOLE RULE OF FAITH! BUT IF 'SOLA SCRIPTURA' is true— then we must line up with Scripture.

2. This is not a new problem— Satan's first strategy was to call into question the goodness of God and TO QUESTION the absolute authority of God's pure Word to Adam and Eve!

SOLA SCRIPTURA— “The doctrine of sola scriptura, simply stated, is that **the Scriptures and the Scriptures alone are sufficient to function as the "rule of faith" for the Church.** All that one must believe to be a Christian is found in Scripture and in no other source. That which is not found in Scripture is not binding upon the Christian conscience. To be more specific, The Bible claims to be the sole and sufficient rule of faith for the Christian Church.

The Scriptures are not in need of any supplement. Their authority comes from their nature as God-breathed revelation. Their authority is not dependent upon man, Church, council, OR pope. The Scriptures are self-consistent, self-interpreting, and self-authenticating. The Christian Church looks at the Scriptures as the only and sufficient rule of faith and the Church is always subject to the Word, and is constantly reformed thereby.” (James R. White)

MARTIN LUTHER, “I'll trust in God's unchanging Word till soul and body sever. For though all things shall pass away, His Word shall stand forever!”

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE:

1. NEITHER receive nor reject the teaching of this article based on anything other than— **DOES IT AGREE with the Word of God!**

2. PERSONALLY search the Scriptures to see if these things are true according to the Word of God! (Acts 17:10-12)

3. As a pastor, I am called to seek to set forth Biblical truth; I am called to seek to live out Biblical truth. ***It is the HOLY SPIRIT'S work to apply the Word of God to EACH OF OUR individual hearts!***

4. "Believer Priests!"— **MAY we all RECEIVE one another; and** let us each open the Word of God and hear, heed, and LIVE BY His every Word! (Matthew 4:4)

MERCY, GRACE, and PEACE TO ALL IN CHRIST!

James Bell / 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, March 8, @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, February 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:

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 FRESH START on MARCH 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/>