

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. 35, September 6, 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!”***

GUIDANCE FOR DAILY DECISIONS!

EVERY DAY and many times a day we ENGAGE thought and make decisions and choices! Such thought, decisions, and choices come from a variety of sources— the way we were raised, our training, habits, the influence of others, the desires and motives of our hearts, etc. **The deadly danger is that we often make decisions with no thought of whether or not they ‘square with’ the Word of God. Too often we make these decisions** with no thought of our **accountability to God**; and with no **fear of God! Furthermore**, we often make decisions with NO THOUGHT of the impact they will have on our family members, neighbors, co-workers, or **the LOCAL CHURCH** to which the Holy Spirit has joined us!

EXAMPLES:

1. We make decisions about setting aside Quiet Times with the LORD, in His Word, about family times with the LORD, about having Sundays for the LORD.

2. We make decisions about SUNDAY SCHOOL Bible Study, Fellowship, and Ministry with the Local Church to whom the Holy Spirit has joined us as ‘contributing members’. (1 Cor. 12:13-27; Eph. 4:16)

3. We make daily decisions about being SALT and LIGHT on the job and in the neighborhood; about being ON MISSION with God in the mission field where He has placed us... at work and/or in the neighborhood; **we make decisions about BUILDING BRIDGES of Christ’s love to the lost.**

4. We make decisions about inviting/bringing folks to Sunday School Fellowship Bible Study and CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES where the lost (or those seeking a church home) can witness Christians ** loving God, ** loving His Word; ** loving each other; and ** loving a lost world.

5. EVERY SUNDAY we make decisions... about being on time, **about** actually worshipping the LORD, **about** giving offerings unto the LORD, **about** praying, **about** hearing, and heeding the Word of God that is preached, **about** ministering and using gifts and talents, **about** welcoming visitors, **about** caring for those who are troubled or discouraged, **about** inviting someone to sit with us during the fellowship lunch, **about** setting up appointments to team up for ministry during the coming week, **about** joining with fellow saints at church wide prayer times; as well as decisions **about** serving the LORD through various ministries.

6. Likewise, we make decisions about heartfelt participation, **about** SINGING UNTO THE LORD, **about responding to the teaching and preaching of God's Word with vocal 'AMENS!'** as a Biblical way to express true worship to God. We make **decisions about** coming to THE LORD'S TABLE to remember Christ's death and resurrection.

7. We make multiple attitude decisions as to how we respond to each other; and as to how we choose **to be or not to be** solution oriented to problems which may arise. **Sadly, for many folk,** the decisions we make about all these matters ARE DONE SO without giving much or any thought to most or any of the above!

INDEED, EVERY WEEK WE MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THESE AND MORE!

BUT What Guides our Decision Process?

What MOTIVES lie behind our decision process?

1. There are **MANY** who make these kinds of decisions based on one or more of the following motives:

* I simply enjoy doing them. * I like to participate. * I like the people.
 * My friends are there. * People in my age bracket are there. * I like the programs. * I like the pastor. * I receive esteem from others because of my service. * I'm expected to do it! * Somebody has to do it, etc!

2. Others make such decisions based upon:

* I don't want to. * I don't feel like it. * **I will if** I feel like it. * **If** company does not come. * **If** we do not have a trip planned. * I was too tired. * It's too boring. * Somebody hurt my feelings. * I don't like the pastor. * The preaching was too deep! * The preaching was too shallow. * No one spoke to me. * Things were not done my way. * I am not going to make any commitments, etc.
 Here's a decision process which 'sounds good' **but may be an excuse all covered up in religious garb: * 'I just don't feel led to; I don't have peace about it!' ...

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF US!

1. **Is it OK** to be uncommitted or halfhearted in the work of Christ?

2. **Is it enough** to be faithful, *just because* we happen to like the way things are done, or because friends or family will be present?

3. **Is it right** to have to be begged or pampered or else we will quit, won't serve, etc?

4. **Is it right** to give God the left-overs of our lives, to have no zeal for excellence in God's Work?

5. **Is it OK to disregard the Word of God?**

6. **Don't we desperately need motives *higher than our feelings, whims, likes, or dislikes?***

FOUR GREAT and GODLY MOTIVES FOR DECISIONS!

[1] ** MAKE DECISIONS in view of the amazing Mercies of God:

Gratitude is the chief motivation for all true Christian living, service, loyalty, faithfulness, zeal, etc. **ROMANS 12:1** — “I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you *in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies* [presenting all your members and faculties] **as a living sacrifice**, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your **reasonable** (rational, intelligent) **service and spiritual worship.**” (Rom. 12:1, Amp)

Beware of this DEADLY Pitfall: There are times when we faithfully labor... and it seems to us that no one cares, no one appreciates, and no one has any idea the sacrifice we made! BEWARE of a pit of despondency, even resentment.

GRANTED, Christian folk should have eyes and hearts open, looking for opportunities to express THANKS and GRATITUDE for the labors of others! **HOWEVER, let us remember** that if others fail to give us such, we have NO LESS REASON to make our DECISIONS and CHOICES to do what we do WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS as service and worship unto the LORD— out of gratitude for His grand and immeasurable mercies!

Further Application: All around us are those who are deceived and blinded by sin, self, satan, and society. As a Christian, by the mercies of God you/we have been set free from this deception and blindness.

THEREFORE, LIKE the woman at the well in John 4— let us go back to our town FREE from bondage and overflowing with GRATITUDE... crying out, **“Come see a man...!”**

Unless we grieve and quench the Holy Spirit this week—we will also go into our world rejoicing in Christ and inviting others to Him!

[2] ** MAKE DECISIONS in view of the Love of God!

“For ***the love of Christ compels us***, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again... Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new... Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...” (2 Cor. 5:14-21, NKJV)

Application: What an astounding miracle! Every Christian now has an **INDWELLING COMPELLING**, (by the Holy Spirit who floods us with His love), to cease selfishness and to live to please Christ.

Moreover, we have the most SIGNIFICANT calling in the world: *We are ambassadors for Christ, with a ministry of reconciliation!* **Thus, there is no greater sin among Christians than lovelessness; and no greater Christ revealing testimony than when we love one another! (John 13:34-35)**

CHRISTIANS: God proved His love to you while you were an unlovable, undeserving, unresponsive GOD HATING (Romans 8:7) rebels. When He mercifully and lovingly saved you by His amazing grace, (Ephesians 2:1-10) — He FLOODED your heart with His love: Romans 5:5.

You now love God because He first loved you, (1 John 4:10). Therefore, you are supernaturally moved to love the unlovable, the undeserving, and the unresponsive! **ARE YOU MISSING THIS MIRACLE?**

Are you refusing to so love and excusing yourself by pointing to how horribly bad your spouse, neighbor, co-worker, or even fellow church member is? Then, hear the Word of God, 1 John 4:7, 8, 20:

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love...”

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother [his sister, wife, husband, etc.], he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

[3] ** MAKE DECISIONS in view of the DAY of JUDGMENT!

JUDGMENT DAY: “So then **every one of us shall give account of himself** to God.” (Rom 14:12) “For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; **that every one** may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)

JUDGMENT DAY: “**Every man’s work** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. **If any man’s work abide** which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Cor. 3:13-15)

JUDGMENT DAY: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**” (Heb. 4:12-13)

JUDGMENT DAY: “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.” (Heb. 4:13, NLT) **“He knows about everyone, everywhere.** Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from Him **to whom we must explain all that we have done”** (Heb. 4:13, Living Paraphrase)
Application: Making decisions and choices based on remembering that we are going to have to give an account OF OURSELVES will keep us from a world of unnecessary trouble!

We waste time and energy and QUENCH AND GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT BY judging others and/or confessing THEIR sins rather than our own. And often such judgment is done in a SLASHING fashion that wounds others.

O happy day when we focus on confessing and judging OUR OWN sins and not the sins of others!

[4] ** MAKE DECISIONS in view of the FEAR OF GOD!

“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that FEAR HIM, in those that hope in His mercy.” (Psalm 147:11) “By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.” (Prov. 16:6) “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.” (Prov. 14:27) “The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.” (Prov. 19:23)

THE FEAR OF THE LORD: “The fear of the LORD is the continual awareness that I am in the presence of the Holy, Just and Almighty God; and that every thought, word and action is open before Him and is being judged by Him.”

THE FEAR OF THE LORD: “The fear of the LORD is affectionate reverence by which the child of God humbly and carefully bends himself to the Father’s will and law.”

Application: We will either live in the bondage of the fear of man or we will live in the freedom and joy of a life lived FEARING GOD!

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF US TO ASK:

1. Will my decisions stand and be accepted on the Day of Judgment?

2. Do my decisions 'square with', agree with the Holy Word of God?

3. Are my decisions clearly in the steps of the compassion and humility of Jesus?

4. Are they the OVERFLOW of a heart FLOODED WITH the love of God?

5. Am I making decisions, holding attitudes, and establishing priorities

in light of the mercies of God, **in light of** the compelling love of God,

in light of JUDGMENT DAY, **and in light of** the Fear of God?

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12, KJV) “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:13, KJV)

“He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from Him **to whom we must explain all that we have done.**” (Heb. 4:13, Living Paraphrase)

Grace to all in Christ!
www.southsidegallatin.org

James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: SEPTEMBER 11, 18, 25 / 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. **9/11/22 ... 5pm** Training Faithful Men

2. **9/18/22 ... AFTER the MORNING service: THE LORD'S TABLE**

3. **9/25/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM.** (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **ADAM TROUTT** scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)
[STUDYING IN JEREMIAH]

*** **NEXT Ladies Bible Study, [Matthew 14:22-33] SEPTEMBER 13, @ 11:00 AM**

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service ** 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... 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! [A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... 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, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, 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/>