



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. 42, October 25, 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 Peter 3:18. ***“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!”***

GO WITH THE FLOW? EMBRACE SUBSTITUTES? OR PREACH and LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL?

THREE BIG HOLIDAYS, LOVED BY THE WORLD, ARE ONCE AGAIN FAST APPROACHING! WHAT SHALL BE MY FOCUS? SHALL I, [1] GO WITH THE FLOW!? [2] EMBRACE SUBSTITUTES? [3] OR PREACH and LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL?

The tragic reality is that in 2022, many churches have pretty much turned to play-acting/DRAMA, or various expressions of high energy religious entertainment— ***because REAL LIFE sermons that we are supposed to be PREACHING and LIVING before a watching world are greatly missing!*** SADLY, many in the pulpits and pews are living on about the same moral level as the pagans to whom we are COMMISSIONED to give the gospel!

NEVERTHELESS, God’s method for saving the lost and for building His church CONTINUES TO BE by the foolishness of PREACHING and by gospel transformed lives—

Not by play-acting, not by impressive music productions, nor by carnal scare tactics at Halloween, etc.

AS TO HALLOWEEN, HAVE WE FORGOTTEN? So far as a method to ‘SCARE THE HELL out of sinners’ Jesus rejected, ***(not a mere pretend play-acting presentation such as the modern day Hell***

Houses at Halloween), Jesus went further: HE rejected the use of a REAL RESIDENT OF HELL, COMING BACK TO EARTH FROM THE DEAD to warn the Rich Man's brothers! (Luke 16:30)

JESUS SAID, that if the lost will not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead! (Luke 16:31)

The pure preaching of the Word of God is different— it brings Holy Spirit conviction, repentance and faith, and DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST who actually FOLLOW HIM! (Acts 2:23-47) Let us return unto the LORD and His ways!

The New Testament Church turned their world 'upside down' with the real thing— their Holy Spirit-filled living and bold gospel preaching! ***It is the Word of God that makes the lost wise unto salvation, as the Holy Spirit, quickens the Word to hearts!***

IN ADDITION, HOLY, LOVING, FORGIVING, 9-FOLD FRUIT FILLED LIVES of real saints is "The Gospel SET TO MUSIC!" As our lives sound forth the glorious MUSIC of the gospel, the sinner SEES real living VISUALS; and HEARS the 'music' of the gospel... and is now more open to the WORDS of the Gospel from our lips or from a tract; or from a sermon, etc. **Yes, it pleases God to save those who believe through the FOOLISHNESS of preaching!**

THE TRUTH MUST BE REPEATED— the Word of God is very plain that the Church of Jesus Christ, (which is HIS planting), is built by Jesus Himself! And He declares that the GOSPEL is the POWER of God unto salvation— not a make believe gospel 'dressed up' in play acting; but the pure Gospel PREACHED and LIVED OUT by genuine saints.

MANY ASK THE QUESTION, “IS IT OK for Christians to participate in, to in some way celebrate Halloween and/or other world-wide religious celebrations which are NOT found in the Bible?” MANY DIFFERENT ANSWERS ARE GIVEN! ... THEREFORE, PERSONALLY:

1. Study the Scriptures. Be persuaded in your own heart from your study of the Word of God, as a Believer Priest!

2. REMEMBER: What you or I believe or practice is NOT THE ISSUE! The issue is, WHAT DOES GOD REVEAL IN HIS HOLY WORD; AND WILL I ... WILL YOU OBEY HIS WORD?

3. Regardless, of how WE come down on answering the question about the world’s holidays— LET US EACH EVALUATE: Have I, have we missed any real issues?

Consider this:

1. Scan through the Acts of the Apostles and the New Testament Epistles— and also realize that the New Testament Church, like us, lived in **a sports crazy world; they also lived in a CULTURE that celebrated many Holidays:**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_festivals

2. HOWEVER, we do not find the N.T. church exercised about adapting to and/or engaging in, or participating in their culture's holidays!

WHY? — Because and in contrast to many in modern western Christianity, **the New Testament Church was so thrilled with Jesus that they were not BORED STIFF and in need of constant entertainment! AND**

BECAUSE they were so focused on advancing the GOSPEL— they had no time to be focused on cultural holiday systems.

CONTRAST: Many in American Churches want their pastors to allow AND ENCOURAGE them to continue to be engrossed in the

gods of culture; and TO ALSO provide grand worship services WHICH MIXED THEIR CARNAL WORSHIP with the worship of the true God— just like Aaron provided in Ex. 32.

THE NEEDED HEART CRY OF THE HOUR:

O to be so thrilled with JESUS and His gospel and living so radically different from the world that we never even raise the question, “Is it OK to celebrate Halloween, or have Easter egg hunts, or go bonkers over a massive flesh feeding, COVETOUSNESS BUILDING December holiday!”

GRAND REALITY: The New Testament Christians, (who 'turned their world upside down' with the Gospel) never had time for any of our fleeting idols! **NOR DID THEY TRY TO MIX** carnal culture with following Christ! **WHY? They believed JESUS: 'NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS!' (Matt. 6:24)**

RELATED QUESTION:

DO WE NEED A 'SUBSTITUTE' LEST WE OR OUR CHILDREN FEEL 'LEFT OUT' ... OR IS THERE A BETTER WAY?

Which is better?

1. Just blend in, have FUN; but try not to get contaminated with the bad stuff of culture's flesh-feeding holiday systems?
2. BECAUSE, if we do not participate, our children will feel 'LEFT OUT'... so at least we need to come up with a substitute celebration, right?
3. **WHAT ABOUT A DIFFERENT WAY:** DISCOVER that Halloween and other gods of culture provide excellent opportunities to remind ourselves and our children that, as Christians, **we are different** and we are not of this world ([Heb. 11:13-16](#); [1 Pet. 2:11](#))?!

Note: Be a functioning 'Believer Priest'... be wise: SEARCH THESE MATTERS OUT IN THE WORD OF GOD!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT... a focus on 'alternatives' to the big cultural celebrations? **An Alternative implies substitute. It assumes that we and our FAMILIES need something to take the place of A GIANT CULTURAL CELEBRATION ... so that the children will not feel left out!**

CONSIDER THIS QUESTION: Is THAT the best that the Church of Jesus Christ has to offer— a mere alternative so that we or our children won't be left out?

1. What if we began to train ourselves and our children to be soldiers in the army of Christ?

2. What if we told them, (and ourselves), that our fight is not against flesh and blood— Rather the fight is "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers or darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. In the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles— **Not only do we not find the New Testament Christians engaged with the culture and celebrations around them; neither do we find them crusading against those who are engaged in culture!**

2. *STRONG REALITY: when we are CONSUMED BY loving obedience to and fellowship with JESUS CHRIST; and consumed with the expansion of His Gospel— we are not bored, we do not need entertainment, we are not feeling left out or that we are missing something!*

Rather, we are excited, motivated, committed, and laboring for the Master... EVEN THOUGH THE SURROUNDING CULTURE MAY HATE US: Acts 4:23-33; 5:40-42; 8:1-4; 16:25-36; 19:18-20; 20:21-24!

A POWERFUL EXAMPLE FROM HISTORY!

One day a 14 year old lad joined a crowd who were watching an Anabaptist being executed at the stake. The man was chained, but he had an obvious expression of peace, if not actual joy, on his face. **With a clear voice he affirmed his faith in Christ; and as the tormentors were about to light the fire, the man prayed:**

"O Father and LORD, endue me with thy Spirit for this trial. Do not punish these who mistreat me today, but bring them also to the faith of Christ. Accept me now in thy grace." And so, he died a martyr for Christ.

As the 14 year old lad left that scene, he was awed by the man's faith. Not long afterwards, this lad, Cornelis Aertsz de Man, found a gathering of the Anabaptists and he joined them for evening Bible Study. **"Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word of God, their joy in life, and their concern for love and moral integrity, all excited him."**

[NOTE: This was their YOUTH DEPARTMENT!]

Soon, Cornelis was converted to Christ. His family was alarmed; but soon they could only admire his **gracious disposition, the love and purity of his life, His diligence in studying the Scriptures; and the joy with which he shared his new relationship with Christ.**

By age 17, Cornelis's faith was so strong that the religious authorities of the Roman Catholic institution felt they had to stop him. So, he was arrested. And they sought diligently to get him to

recant and return to Catholicism. **On a particular day**, the Roman Catholic leaders lined the courtroom and promised Cornelis **future position and honor if** he would renounce the simple Bible-based faith of the

Anabaptists. Calmly, Cornelis replied:

"There is no higher position than to be a child of God and no greater honor than to be a voice for Him!"

Ultimately, they tortured young Cornelis to the extreme and finally at age 21, he was burned. (From **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH**, by Myron S. Augsburger)

It is documented reality, that the blood of the martyrs is the SEED of the Church. AND IN THIS MODEL FOR 'CAPTURING THE ATTENTION OF TEENS'... OR OF ANYONE— **The GOSPEL**, the reality of JESUS CHRIST experienced and manifested through the true saints of God, **is the POWER OF GOD!**

No matter the culture. No matter the human traditions. No matter the loves and likes of the lost— **when there are folk who are GOD SATURATED— then, the power of God to transform is RELEASED.**

Cornelis was but a teen; but many were brought to Christ through his witness. *And he along with so many others, living in the DARK AGES, lit THE CANDLES of what would become the REFORMATION! They had reality. They were not bored.*

*They possessed the power to **ATTRACT**, the power to **REPEL** and the power to **OVER-COME**, even as in the Acts of the Apostles.*

O... did they think it OK to celebrate CULTURAL HOLIDAYS? THE STRONG EVIDENCE is that they were too excited about Jesus and His Gospel to be bothered about such! So far as we know... they did not even have an alternative fun night.

Instead, they had SUCH dynamic Christian living that the Holy Spirit used it to grab the heart of a 14 year old and many more!

O God, are we missing something?

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: OCTOBER 30 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!** // 10/31/22... **FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING- Rest/ministry as you are led**

NOVEMBER SCHEDULES WILL BE NORMAL!

BUT WE GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF SUNDAYS IN UPCOMING DECEMBER and JANUARY— NOTE DIFFERENCES:

1. December 4 & 11—regular schedules

2. December 18—regular MORNING SERVICE, with the LORD'S SUPPER ... and....

2b. DECEMBER 18, 5PM... Adam, Bradley, Choir, and others will lead us in a SPECIAL TIME of SONGS and SCRIPTURES ... IN GRATITUDE FOR JESUS, THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT!

3. DECEMBER 25... 10:45 WORSHIP SERVICE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER. (No. S.S. or evening service)

4. JANUARY 2023—

[1] January 1, Sunday School and Worship Service, **only.**

[2] January 8, Sunday School and Worship Service, and FELLOWSHIP MEAL;

[3] January 15, Sunday School and Worship Service, and FAITHFUL MEN, 5PM;

[4] January 22, Sunday School and Worship Service, and LORD'S SUPPER; HOME GROUPS!

[5] January 29, (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **Jim Barnhouse** is 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, NOVEMBER 8, @ 11:00 AM...(Read Matthew 11)**

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. 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.*** 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/>**