



**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. 45, November 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!”***

THE LIGHT CAUSES DARKNESS to FLEE!

A few years back I attended a Pastor's briefing, dealing with the problem of pornography. The speaker told of going late at night into a kitchen for a bite to eat. When he turned on the light **he was shocked to find the place SWARMING WITH cockroaches!** HOWEVER, with the light turned on— the cockroaches immediately fled! **COCKROACHES THRIVE ON AND IN DARKNESS!**

As to porn, the speaker gave some of the alarming statistics that are found at various websites. The following statistics are several years old... things are WORSE NOW! * **At BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS per year, the revenues of the porn industry in the U.S. are bigger than the NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball combined.** * According to the Justice Department, WAY BACK in 1998 there were 28,000 X-rated Web sites... Within just three years this number increased to 280,000 X-rated Web sites. * 60% of all website visits are sexual in nature. * 77% of online visitors to adult content sites are male. Their average age is 41 and they have an annual income of \$60,000. 46% are married. * The U.S. Customs Service estimates that there are more than 100,000 websites offering child pornography (which are illegal) worldwide. *

Hollywood currently releases 11,000 adult movies per year – more than 20 times the mainstream movie production. * One in 4 American adults surveyed in 2002 admitted to seeing an X-rated movie in the last year. * **50% of hotel in room movie rentals are porn movies.** * The average teenager spends three to four hours per day watching television and 83% of the programming most frequently watched by adolescents contains

some sexual content. * 42% of songs on ten top-selling CDs in 1999 contained sexual content, 41% of which were "very explicit" or "pretty explicit."

*** 17% of all women struggle with porn addiction. * 1 of 3 visitors to all adult websites are women. * 9.4 million women access adult websites every month.** * 38% of adults believe there is nothing wrong with pornography use. * August 7, 2006: 50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women are addicted to pornography.

60% of the women who answered the survey admitted to having significant struggles with lust; 40% admitted to being involved in sexual sin in the past year; and 20% of the churchgoing female participants struggle with looking at pornography on an ongoing basis.

* In December of 2000, the National Coalition to Protect Children and Families surveyed 5 Christian Campuses to see how the next generation of believers was doing with sexual purity: 48% of males admitted to current porn use. 68% of males said they intentionally viewed a sexually explicit site at the School.

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BACK AT THE PASTOR'S MEETING: The Speaker also spoke of the power of music. He, in fact, is using music, [which he calls "**Music for the Soul**"], as a way to reach the growing masses of folk who are being attacked by various problems and/or who are being destroyed by addiction to porn. **IN DEALING WITH PORN, an emphasized 'selling point' for his approach is the following statistic:** "Studies have shown that people remember 10% of what they're told, 40% of what they read, and 90% of what they hear in music." **THUS, THE SPEAKER CLAIMED** that by using the power of music and the innate responsiveness to it , that God has built into our beings , we can meet people at their point of need with messages that have the power to heal."

AS TO THE SPEAKER'S CD, with 'healing music'... it contained music, which 'ranged from that which is soft, to smooth, to that which is hard rock.'

WELL, CERTAINLY, PEOPLE NEED 'MESSAGES THAT HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL." **And, CERTAINLY,** the right kind of music with godly words can certainly play a huge role in such healing. **However, when he said,** "Studies have shown that people remember 10% of what they're told, 40% of what they read, and 90% of what they hear in music."-- **He followed up that statement by saying:** *"Sorry pastors, but preaching is just not very effective!"*

FRANKLY, THE MORE HE SPOKE, THE MORE IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT HE DID NOT SPEAK FROM A BIBLICAL MINDSET! [But the pastors did not seem troubled!]

SADLY, the entire presentation to the pastors minimized the place, the power, and the preeminence of the Word of God. There was zero confession that the God-breathed Scripture, written by and quickened by the Holy Spirit is the CHIEF weapon/tool of the Holy Spirit for all lasting life change miracles!

CONSIDER THIS: People consumed in porn or whatever... who die in their sin and are in hell and torment— It is plausible that they might also plead as the rich man in Luke 16: **"SEND SOMEONE BACK FROM THE DEAD to warn my brothers less they come to this place!"** Now ask yourself: Humanly speaking, what would impress sin loving folk? What would get their attention so that they would repent of their ways?

(1) We could send them a CD with music and testimonies. **(2)** We could do 'Hell/Death/Satan" reenactments like churches do at Halloween.

(3) Better yet, what if we could literally produce some genuine folk on temporary reprieve from hell to come back to earth to warn sinners to repent?

Many churches of our day are already doing options 1 and 2...

And if given the opportunity, they would thrill to be able to do

#3! MOST OF THE mega church in the world would book 'those back from the dead' and get masses of people down the aisle and then play God and pontificate that the masses are saved! **AFTER ALL, THAT IS THE**

COMMON WAY OF MODERN EVANGELISM: (1) Stir up emotions to get folk down the aisle. **(2)** Get them to pray a prayer. **(3)** Pronounce them saved solely on the grounds that some preacher or outreach worker has led them in a prayer. **(4)** Baptize them... and by all means COUNT THEM!

(5) BUT reality is that most of these modern converts NEVER show any

evidence of conversion and most remain dominated by self, society, sin, satan, and sensuality! ***IN GREAT CONTRAST, JESUS exalts His law and His Prophets and says that if the lost will not HEAR THE PREACHING of His prophets, they will not truly repent even if one rose from the dead! (Luke 16:19-31) Moreover, it still pleases God that by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe! (1 Cor. 1:21)***

And as for how God matures His saints so that they DEVELOP Christlikeness, winning their battles over sin, including all forms of sensuality— God has given the church pastors and teachers so as to build up and to empower the rank and file saints to use the Word of God by the Power of the Spirit. (Eph. 4:11-16) (GODLY SONGS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS have a strong place in this whole process; but never a place prominence over the pure Word of God!)

MOREOVER, as to the studies that supposedly showed that people remember 10% of what they're told, 40% of what they read, and 90% of what they hear in music.) **THAT IS INVALID SO FAR AS SPIRITUAL WARFARE! WHY?**

The right method to reach the lost and/OR the wayward/THE BACKSLIDDEN IS NOT DETERMINED by some survey of what people like or don't like... or of what lost people SUPPOSEDLY respond to or don't respond to! RATHER, GOD TRANSFORMS BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT QUICKENED WORD— 2 Timothy 3:15-17!

REALITY: The masses did not positively respond to the PREACHING of Noah or the preaching of JESUS CHRIST! NEVERTHELESS, God did not change, alter, or water down His ordained method!

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**IN THIS PASTOR'S MEETING, THE SPEAKER said** that he had lots of Scriptures that he could have given us, exposing the problems of porn and immorality. BUT, he said that because we were Pastors... He figured that we already knew them. Afterwards, I sincerely thanked the brother for his presentation; and plead with him that in future opportunities with

pastors... that THEY/WE might well need the Scriptures as much as or more than most!

For even by his own statistics-- **Pastors are only 10% points behind others in porn abominations.**

**NOW, AGAIN, ON THE FRONT END of his presentation, the speaker to the pastors said:**

ON AN OCCASION, late at night he went into a kitchen for a bite to eat.

When he turned on the light **he was shocked to find the place**

**SWARMING WITH cockroaches!** HOWEVER, with the light turned on—the cockroaches immediately fled! **COCKROACHES THRIVE ON, IN DARKNESS!** Sincerely to help the masses drowning in the COCKROACHES OF PORN, he developed **"Music for the Soul"...**

WELL, INDEED, the great spiritual COCKROACHES of self, sin [MAYBE especially the PORN SINS], society, and satan thrive on and in darkness. WHICH IS WHY WE MUST BRING THE LIGHT OF JESUS and HIS WORD to ourselves and up against our great 'cockroach' enemies of self, sin, society, satan, and especially against all sex related sins.

**NOW, AS BEST I RECALL, the SPEAKER ONLY REFERENCED ONE SPECIFIC VERSE IN HIS PRESENTATION!** HOWEVER, it was and

is a GREAT SHINNING LIGHT-- Exposing many spiritual COCKROACHES... and when THE LIGHT shines... the darkness flees! TURN THE LIGHT ON! Let it shine and the Cockroaches of self, society, sin, satan in all arenas...but especially in the sensuous sex area-- THEY HAVE TO FLEE!

Here it is: Ephesians 5:3-4

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient." [Here are some amplifications]

*But/as for fornication and all uncleanness, [all impurity, immorality, sexual vice] or covetousness [greediness, the itch to get your hands on what belongs to others], **let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [must not even be named among you as fitting or proper; ... not even to be named... don't even talk about such things... But among you there must not be EVEN A HINT of sexual***

*immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient. [There must be no shameful conduct, **no sexually suggestive talk... No dirty stories, foul talk or coarse jokes.** They are wholly out of place among you.]*

**INTERESTINGLY, THIS PASTOR'S MEETING was** the day after the Super Bowl, of that year. Days before the Super Bowl, a secular sports writer had an article entitled, "Super Bowl Is About Sex More Than Game From Ads to Halftime Show, Naughtiness Reigns; By JIM ARMSTRONG.

**ARMSTRONG WROTE:**

"Everywhere you look on Super Sunday, somebody is selling sex. Sex, sex, sex. Sex, sex, sex. Used to be they peddled sparkplugs and trucks and cigarettes during the Super Bowl. If they resurrected the Marlboro Man today, they'd probably dress him up in a garter belt and fish-net panty hose. Remember back in the day, when the Dallas Cowboy's cheerleaders were considered borderline risqué? Now they're just another face in the nudist camp."

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SO... I RAISED A QUESTION at the pastor's meeting: [1] In light of "...there must not be EVEN A HINT of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people..." **[2] And in light of** the huge problem with PORN... which begins with 'soft porn' (the sexually suggestive images on TV ads, etc)... **[3] If we are serious** about FIGHTING AND WINNING AGAINST PORN— ***How do we square that with at one and the same time INVITING PORN and immorality right into our church buildings by means of big screens blasting the Super Bowl?***

Now the brother trying to answer my question was in a difficult position because 'his church'... like many, is a big promoter of inviting sexual immorality into the church, (via SUPER BOWLS), in the name of doing evangelism. And who can argue— for these churches have huge SUCCESS numbers that validate their method! (And most of the pastors had watched the Super Bowl... and the consensus was that the SEX ADVERTIZEMENTS WERE WORSE THAN EVER!)

It's amazing! We all love the Word of God... UNTIL it does not square with our practice! Then, we push it aside with lame

excuses and go on our way... amazed that anyone would be so negative and narrow minded as to suggest that it might be wise to heed ONE BIBLE VERSE!

BE THAT AS IT MAY ... just that one powerful verse is revolutionary.

And let he/she who has ears to hear, hear it:

“But/as for fornication and all uncleanness, [all impurity, immorality, sexual vice] or covetousness [greediness, the itch to get your hands on what belongs to others], let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [must not even be named among you as fitting or proper; ... not even to be named... **don't even talk about such things... But among you there must not be EVEN A HINT of sexual immorality,** or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient. **[There must be no shameful conduct, no sexually suggestive talk... No dirty stories, foul talk or coarse jokes. They are wholly out of place among you.]**

NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE PURE WORD OF GOD! The Holy Spirit BREATHED out the Word of God; **and the Word of God is His chief weapon by which we are able to QUENCH all the fiery darts of the evil great COCKROACH, SATAN... AS WELL AS all the sensuous lusts of the flesh!**

O let us come into the light! AND also, BEWARE.... John 3:19-21 “And this is the condemnation, **that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.**”

Grace and Peace to all Saints in Christ! James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: NOVEMBER 20, 27 / 2022

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

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am,
FOLLOWED BY The LORD'S SUPPER!**

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

1. NOVEMBER 20 - Home Groups, various times

2. NOVEMBER 27 - EVENING SERVICE (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **James Poteete** is scheduled to preach.)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER and JANUARY—

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)

JANUARY 2023— In January... Sunday Evening Events are ONE WEEK LATER than normal... please note!

[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; 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!*) **[STUDYS IN JEREMIAH]**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, January 2023**

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>

WE CONTINUE TO PRINT THE FOLLOWING

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES— WHY?

[1] SO as to Respond with WISDOM and NOT fear!

[2] SO AS TO KEEP SEEKING TO BE AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN!

[3] SO THAT BY GOD'S MERCIES AND GRACE, WE CAN CONTINUE 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... 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 patients:
<https://aapsonline.org/CovidPatientTreatmentGuide.pdf>

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/>