

**GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS!** – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

## **2 10 26 V1n40 OUR MISSION FIELD! THE GOSPEL! THE JERUSALEM MODEL OF CHURCH!**

**OUR MISSION FIELD:** AROUND 100 Million people in America are chemically dependent or living with someone who is. ABOUT 25 to 35 percent of women in America suffer sexual abuse before adulthood. PORN: There are around 42 million porn websites, WITH 370 million pages of porn ... SERVING **More than 40 million Americans WHO are regular visitors to porn sites. 68% of churchgoing men and more than 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis.**

**THUS:** A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS and VISITORS WHO walked in the doors of a church service in America today ... are battling AND/OR ARE ENSLAVED with some sort of dysfunctional family problems and/or addictions.

**This is our mission field!** Here is deeper truth about *our mission field — it is not different from any other mission field in any era of time!*

**I. THE DEEP PROBLEM OF OUR MISSION FIELD:** Until or unless they are made ALIVE in Christ Jesus, **every person born into a fallen world is (1) Dead** in sin; **(2) Walks** according to the course of this world; **(3) Walks** according to the dictates of satan; **(4) Walks** in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh

and of the mind; **(5) By nature is a child of wrath, under the wrath of God!** (Ephesians 2:1-3)

**II. GOD'S GOOD NEWS MESSAGE:** Only **GOD'S Gospel** can set Ephesian 1:1-3 captives free! (See, Ephesians 2:4-10)

**Here is a sampling** of the deep lifestyles of **bondage from which** the founding members of the Church at Corinth were delivered, simply by the gospel of Christ!

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived (misled):** neither [fornicators] the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.*

***And such some of you were [once]. But*** you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), ***and*** you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), ***and*** you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.”

(1 Cor. 6:9-11, Amplified Bible)

**GOOD NEWS:** The GOSPEL of Jesus Christ has a proven record of being the power of God to TRANSFORM sinners, regardless of their bondage!

**III. OUR GOD ORDAINED MESSAGE AND METHOD**

We MUST embrace Paul's confession of Romans 1:14-16: "*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***"

**THUS, WE LOOK AT THE JERUSALEM MODEL OF CHURCH, where will clearly see — THAT** when the gospel of God's amazing, saving grace invades a life *there will be 'Acts 2:36-47' experiences, realities, miracles, and changes:*

**1. Acts 2:36-37—** there will be CONVICTION (Also see, John 16:8-11)

**2. Acts 2: 38-41—** there will be REPENTANCE and FAITH brought on by a supernatural work of the calling of God. (Paul summed up his gospel preaching: Acts 20:19-21— "repentance toward God and faith toward our LORD JESUS CHRIST!") This 'repentance and faith' is initially expressed in **a glad receiving** of the convicting Word of God **and a public identification** with Christ in 'death/burial/resurrection' in the waters of baptism. **NOTICE: All of these MIRACLES are the result of GOD BEING AT WORK — THE PROMISE of such is 'to as many as the LORD our GOD SHALL CALL!! (Acts 2:39)**

**3. Acts 2:42-47—** there will be **LIFESTYLE TRANSFORMATION** by the gospel! Because the Holy Spirit now INDWELLS the newborn redeemed, many NEW THINGS become STANDARD for all those who are truly saved! (2 Cor. 5:17))

**NOTICE IN Acts 2:42-47, Characteristics of being a New Creation in Christ, are set forth:**

**a. Continual devotion to** the study of the Word of God. **b. Learning the doctrines** of the Word of God and having fellowship with other believers. **c. Partaking of** the LORD'S SUPPER. **d. Prayer with** other believers. **e. Reverential fear** of God. **f. Sharing possessions with** one another so that no one is left 'out in the cold.' **g. Sharing meals with** other saints in Christ with gladness and joy. **h. Praising** God. **i. Having respect from neighbors** who are, doubtless, impressed by the new supernatural lifestyle of the believers. **j. Into such an environment, God adds more believers!**

**MAJOR ALERT!** In the above: **'a'** through **'h'** GAVE OPEN EVANGELISTIC DOORS **(i)** and GOD added to the Church! **(j.)**

**MAJOR ALERT:** To the extent that true saints in Christ **are not living** the reality of **Acts 2:36-47 Christianity**— we are grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit! **Therefore,** let us be broken, and repent, and follow in the steps of the new born redeemed of Acts 2:36-47!

**WHAT DOES THIS MIRACLE LIFE LOOK LIKE, OUT IN THE WORLD and IN DAILY LIVING?**

When a non-Christian or a Believer sees us out in daily life and/or walks into our Sunday School Classes or a Sunday Worship Service—

**\*\* They should witness people** who are crucified to sin and self and a people who are risen in Christ, free and led in accordance with Galatians 2:20; 5:18-23; 6:14; Romans 6:14-23; and Rom. 8:7-16.

**\*\* THEY SHOULD WITNESS a people who** have and manifest love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.

**\*\* They should witness a people** of holiness, love and forgiveness! These are all divine realities, divine grace transformations GIVEN to every born again Christian and INDWELLING every born again Christian!

**MORE REALITY: When the gospel of God's amazing, saving grace invades— we will be OPENLY TESTIFYING OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR OUR SOUL! EXAMPLES:**

**Psalm 22:22, 25 —** I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee ... My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation:** I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

**Psalm 35:18—** I will give thee thanks **in the great congregation:** I will praise thee among much people.

**Psalm 66:16—** Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And ***I will declare what He has done for my soul.***

**Psalm 107**— Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever. **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,** Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy...

**MORE PRACTICAL, APPLICATIONS:** While we may chat a little about the weather, work, or ‘the game’— the **highlight of our conversation**, (before Sunday School, between Sunday School and the Worship hour, after the worship hour and during lunch) **WILL BE like this:**

**“This week ... or today ... or from Daily Bible reading, or from the Sunday School lesson, or from the preached Word of God, etc ... GOD SPOKE TO ME!”** “God spoke to me today... **convicting** ... God spoke to me today ... **encouraging** ... God spoke to me today ... **instructing** ... God spoke to me today... **rebuking/correcting** ...” **OR ... “GOD SPOKE TO ME TODAY and brought me from death to life...”**

**\*\*\* THEREFORE,** when we **READ/STUDY** the Word of God, when we participate in a group Bible Study, and/or when we sit under the sound of the preaching of the Word of God— we must be asking ourselves questions like—

- \* Is there a sin to confess?
- \* Are there promises to claim?
- \* Are there commands of God to obey?
- \* Are there examples to follow?
- \* Is there error to avoid?
- \* Is there truth to believe?
- \* Is there PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to give to God?

**\*\*\* And then, we TESTIFY in the midst of the Congregation:**

**Psalm 35:18—** I will give thee thanks in the great congregation:  
I will praise thee among much people.

**Psalm. 66:16—** Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, *and I will declare what He has done for my soul.*

**MOREOVER, WHEN A VISITOR WALKS INTO ONE OF OUR S.S. CLASSES AND/OR WORSHIP SERVICES ... OR INTO OUR HOMES—** they should witness A CONGREGATION or FAMILY OF SERVANTS OF CHRIST WHO ARE **ALL 'ADDICTED' TO TRUE CHURCH WORK! (1 Cor. 12:7- 13:8)**

**Practically, what does this 'Church work' look like? Every Christian is equipped by the Holy Spirit and commissioned to actively carry out the following ministry:**

1. "...Be at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50) 2. "...Wash **one** another's feet" (John 13:14) 3. "...Love **one** another..." (John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17) 4. "Love **one** another"(Romans 13:8) 5. "Be devoted to **one** another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10) 6. "Honor **one** another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10) 7. "Live in harmony with **one** another..." (Romans 12:16) 8. "...Stop passing judgment on **one** another" (Romans 14:13) 9. "Accept **one** another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7) 10. "...instruct **one** another" (Romans 15:4) 11. "Greet **one** another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26) 12. "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other" (I Corinthians 11:33) 13. "...Have equal concern for each other" (I Corinthians 12:25) 14. "...Serve **one** another in love" (II Corinthians 13:12) 15. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2) 16. "If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other" (Galatians 5:15) 17.

“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:26) 18. “...Be patient, bearing with **one** another in love” (Ephesians 4:2) 19. “Be kind and compassionate to **one** another...” (Ephesians 4:32)

20. “...forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32) 21. “Speak to **one** another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19) 22. “Submit to **one** another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21) 23. “...in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3) 24. “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9) 25. “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13) 26. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against **one** another” (Colossians 3:13) 27. “Teach...[**one** another]” (Colossians 3:16) 28. “...admonish **one** another” (Colossians 3:16) 29. “...make your love increase and overflow for each other” (I Thessalonians 3:12) 30. “Encourage **one** another” (I Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 10:25) 31. “...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11) 32. “Encourage **one** another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13) 33. “Spur **one** another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24) 34. “...Do not slander **one** another” (James 4:11) 35. “Don’t grumble against each other” (James 5:9) 36. “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16) 37. “...Pray for each other” (James 5:16) 38. “...Love **one** another deeply, from the heart” (I Peter 1:22, 4:8) 39. “...Live in harmony with **one** another...” (I Peter 3:8) 40. “Greet **one** another with a kiss of love” (I Peter 5:14)

41. “Offer hospitality to **one** another without grumbling” (I Peter 4:9) 42. “Each **one** should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10) 43. “...Clothe yourselves with

humility toward **one** another..." (I Peter 5:15) 44. "Love **one** another" (I John 3:11, 23; 4:7,11 ,12; II John 5)

**\*\*\* The above '44 commands' are God's assignment for all saints in Christ.** *"He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."* (John 14:23-24)

Grace to all in Christ!

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

**[This past Sunday Morning message from God's Word was similar to this article: You can listen / watch here. The message begins at about minute 37:**

**<https://youtu.be/xzdNu-F7Fj0>**

**SUNDAY SERVICES: FEBRUARY, 2026: 15, 22**

[1] **Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. [2] **WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

**2/15 - LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE; 2/22 - 5:00pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Evening Worship**

**EVERY SATURDAY\*\*\* 8:00 AM,** — Men's Bible Study! *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)* **FEBRUARY 14 / Romans 6**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, 2/17/26 @ 11:00 AM – Read Acts 5**

**\*\*\*TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am**

***Young Adults ... Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!***

***WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm,***

***MEN'S Prayer Service // YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE***

**LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD by MAIL or by ONLINE:**

**BY MAIL (checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO:  
Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 /**

**TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:**

**<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**