

**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!

**4 28 26 V1n51 SIN BRINGS SEPARATION! SAVING GRACE BRINGS COMMUNION WITH GOD, TOGETHERNESS and MINISTRY ONE TO ANOTHER!**

**WHEN ADAM and EVE sinned**, their communion with God was broken, destroyed. **THUS**, when they heard God walking in *the garden*, (Gen 3:8), they hid. (Gen 3:23–24). **SIN brings hiding from God.**

Sin **ALSO** brings hiding and separation and **BLAME-SHIFTING in and among families and churches!** ... Starting all the way back to Adam and Eve — *‘The woman you gave me gave me the forbidden fruit!’* (Genesis 3:8-13)

**THE ONLY HOPE, THE ONLY SOLUTION** is for there to be a **GRAND GRACE RESCUE** through the substitutionary atonement by JESUS, the God-man, for those who, (BECAUSE OF AMAZING GRACE) -- place their faith in Him! **ONLY** the gospel of Jesus Christ **RESTORES** relationship and fellowship with **GOD! ALSO, THE GOSPEL GIVES US RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS WHO ARE NO LONGER IN ADAM; BUT ARE NOW IN CHRIST!** With our hearts **‘flooded with’** the love of God, (Rom. 5:5), -- **WE ARE MOTIVATED WITH A DEEP LOVE, ONE FOR ANOTHER!**

## **THEREFORE, A QUESTION: Do you, do I love Jesus?**

### **QUESTION: Do you, DO I**

**(1) Love the BODY OF CHRIST**, that specific portion of the Body of Christ, that assembly of saints to which the Holy Spirit joins one and all who are brought out of 'Adam' and into 'CHRIST!?'

**(2) And IS my, is your, love for the BODY of CHRIST** evident as we FAITHFULLY gather with our fellow saints FOR WORSHIP?

**(3) Do you, do I** FAITHFULLY gather with and 'mingle with' our fellow saints to CARRY OUT the many 'one-to-another' ministries toward each other;

**(4) ARE you, am I** TEAMED UP with fellow saints of the local assembly IN PRAYER and in evangelizing the lost?

**REALITY:** If I say I love JESUS but do not LOVE HIS BODY, His church, as described above — I am at best VERY badly deceived.

**WAKE UP CALL:** Saul of Tarsus learned that THE WAY he treated Christians, (the Body of Christ), was the way he treated Christ — no more, no less: Acts 9:11-5.

**WAKE UP CALL:** THE BIBLE REVEALS that a number of the church folk at the Church at Corinth were treating EACH OTHER badly in a variety of ways — and Divine judgment CAME UPON THEM! Lovelessness is COSTLY! (1 Cor. 11:27-33)

**WAKE UP CALL:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, (Phillips) “Don’t you realize that you yourselves are the temple of God, and God’s Spirit lives in you? **God will destroy anyone who** defiles His temple, for His temple is holy— and that is exactly what you are!”

**WAKE UP CALL:** 1 Corinthians 11:29-30, Amplified — “For anyone who eats and drinks [without solemn reverence and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ], **eats and drinks a judgment on himself if he does not recognize the body [of Christ] ... That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason why many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep [in death].”**

**WAKE UP CALL:** 1 John 4:19-20, Amplified — “We love, because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates, (works against) his [Christian] brother he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen!”

**RESENTMENT PROTEST RESPONSE:** “I don’t HATE anyone ... and I certainly do not ‘HATE or WORK AGAINST’ the brothers and sisters in the local church fellowship!”

**WAKE UP CALL TRUTH RESPONSE:** God’s love is MUCH MORE than the mere absence of active evil toward others. MANY, indeed, are NOT engaged in ACTIVE EVIL against any in the local assembly to which they are joined! — **they are JUST too focused with their own agenda** to be ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN

THE ACTIVE GOOD of the local assembly to which they are called to be CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS! (Ephesians 4:11-16)

**GREAT GOOD NEWS! CHRISTIAN LOVE in the local church and home is expressed by a grand variety of GOD IMPOWERED 'ONE ANOTHERS!' ... revealing GENUINE LOVE:**

**Love one another:** John 13:34-35; 5:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; John 3:11, 14, 23; 4:7, 11, 12:2; II John 1:5 and 1 Peter 1:22. (Look these up!) **We are also to increase our love one for another** (II Thessalonians 1:3); abound in love for another (I Thessalonians 3:12); and we are to love each other deeply, to cover a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8).

**We are to interact with care:** Have fellowship one with another (I John 1:17) Forgive one another (Eph. 3:13, 4:32 & Col. 3:13) Greet one another with a holy kiss - or an embrace in some cultures (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12 & I Peter 5:14) We are to Wait for one another, (I Cor. 11:33) and to Bear one another's sufferings (I Cor. 12:26).

**We are to serve one another:** Serve one another with the gifts each person has received (I Peter 4:10); Serve one another in love (Gal 5:13) Be kind to one another (I Thess. 5:15) Care for one another (I Cor 12:25) Bear the burdens for one another (Gal. 6:2) Wash each other's feet or humbly serve one another (John 13:14) Work with one another (I Cor 3:9; II Cor. 6:1) We are to teach one another, (Col. 3:16) Instruct one another (Rom. 5:14). We are to Encourage one another (Col 3:16; Heb 10:25); Exhort one another (Heb. 3:13)

WE ARE TO Speak the truth to one another (Eph 4:25) Lay down our lives one for another (I John 3:16) Spur one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24) We are to edify one another: Edify (strengthen, build up) one another (I Thess. 4:18 & 5:1, 11; I Cor. 14:26)

**WAKE UP CALL: We are to give spiritual care one to another:** Confess our sins one to another, (James 5:16); Pray for one another (James 5:16) We are to cultivate unity and to act with humility: Honor one another (Rom. 12:10) Be of one mind one with another (II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:16, 15:5) Do not criticize one another (James 4:11; 5:9) Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21) Be clothed with humility toward one another (I Peter 5:5) We are to live in harmony: Have patience one with another (Eph. 4:2)

Live in peace one with another (Matt. 9:50) Receive one another with hospitality (Rom. 15:7; I Peter 4:9) Glorify God together (Rom. 15:6)

**WAKE UP CALL: OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE** can HEED these 'one-anothers' **by merely** SHOWING UP at Sunday Services ... when or if we are in the mood! **NOTE:** We were never meant to walk the road of Christian living **alone**. We need each other! **AND, We cannot love JESUS the Head, while rejecting, hating, or being slack, or non-committal toward HIS BODY!** **IN OUR FAILURES TO LIVE OUT THE 'ONE ANOTHERS' ... WE OFTEN CLAIM THAT OUR PROBLEM IS A LACK OF TIME! HOWEVER, MORE REALITY: FOR WHAT, or WHO IS OUR**

**PRIORITY— WE 'FIND' or 'MAKE' TIME FOR — OTHER THINGS or people, GET EXCUSES! SOLUTION:**

**Develop a passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL! RECEIVE the LORD'S DAY AS a special day to DELIGHT IN GOD. (Isaiah 58:13-14)**

In view of the great mercies of God, holding the LORD'S DAY sacred for God is not at all duty but rather it is a grand delight! (Isaiah 58:13-14) **In the light of the MERCIES of God, OUR passion to MAKE SUNDAY SPECIAL is but reasonable worship and service! (Rom. 12:1-2)**

**WITH SUCH GODLY VISION we will not be ashamed to humbly inform family and friends that as for our household— Sundays uniquely belong to the LORD.**

**[EXAMPLE: "THANKS for the invitation— but we must DECLINE because we are committed to using SUNDAYS as a special day to Worship the LORD, to MINISTER to fellow believers; and/or to REST!]**

**SATURDAY CHOICES— A KEY to Sacred Sundays!**

**BECAUSE** JESUS CHRIST and HIS BODY are so important; and because we are so GRATEFUL for the LORD'S MERCIES— **THEREFORE**, no late Saturday nights out partying, playing, going to games, or malls, or a thousand other allurements! **Instead, on Saturday Evenings the following will be typical:** **a.** Sunday School lessons are studied; **b.** Last minute checks are made WITH those to whom WE PLANTED the Gospel during

the week; **c.** Prayers are lifted up for the LORD'S blessing on all the LORD'S DAY services; **d.** Clock alarms are set so that on the LORD'S DAY morning WE will not be rushed. **(In other words, we will function like a missionary family on a foreign mission field!)**

**SO, AS A NORMAL PATTERN,** our plan and passion is to MAKE SURE to be in bed early enough so as to be fully rested and refreshed for a GRAND LORD'S DAY OF DELIGHTING IN GOD!

**EXAMPLE: LOOK IN ON ONE OF our Families who has a PASSION TO DELIGHT IN GOD** — their Sunday mornings find them rested, up early with plenty of time for family devotions, breakfast, necessary chores, and even plenty of time to arrive early for Sunday School!

This Christian family is excited about being in place early **so as to welcome those they have invited** to come this Sunday; **and/or to** briefly meet with those with whom they are in accountability; **and/or to** spend a few moments with those they are discipling!

Soon after arrival at the church building, we find our Christian family helping visitors or newcomers find all the right places... and helping visitors/newcomers to be introduced to others; and to have someone to sit with during the worship hour, etc.

**One Sunday, we spotted** the Mom of our special family in the hallway, praying with a single Mom who was all stressed and feeling hopeless. **Between** Sunday School and Worship services and after the Worship services members of this family continued ministering. **We also discovered that** it is common

for our Christian family to have their eyes open for ministry opportunities during the Fellowship Meal. **[FYI --, they made a point to say that it would take something really serious to keep them from the LORD'S SUPPER times!]**

**MOREOVER**, our Christian family testified that they never have discussions as to whether or not they will be faithful to attend and participate in the Southside LORD'S DAY services. **It's a given. It is preeminent priority.** As one might expect, our Christian family commonly use LORD'S DAY afternoons for rest and/or for family and/or ministry. **Obviously, our Christian Family Has a Passion to Make Sundays Special!**

IN ADDITION, our special family has just started coming to Church services, **armed with "A Sunday Search!"** (This "Sunday Search"... simply helps them be prepared for their afternoon sharing— because before each LORD'S DAY is over, they have a family time of sharing: **(1)** "How Christ spoke TO me today!"— through the S.S. lesson, Music, the Sermon, etc. **(2)** "How Christ spoke THROUGH me today!"— those to whom they were blessed to minister. **(3)** What follow up strategies they might use in the coming days with those to whom they are encouraging and/or sharing the Gospel. Our Christian family said that in these ways they are further spreading the good news of the present works of God. ///

### **BUT WHAT ABOUT MONDAY TO SATURDAY?—**

WE ALL have chores, duties, jobs, School, Homework, stresses, trials, and etc. **However, NONE OF THAT NEED HINDER our focus and passion for GOD and HIS KINGDOM.** **a.** Thus, in our neighborhood, at school, at work— we must seek to live holy, to love, to bless, and to do good to all men and especially to other Christians. **b.** WE MUST seek to build bridges of love.

**c.** WE MUST seek to establish TOUCH POINTS... so that we can build caring relationships... ultimately so that we may share the gospel. **WHY? BECAUSE we view ourselves as Missionaries who are No Different from a Missionary Serving in a different MISSION FIELD!** Thus, we purpose to be excellent employees and/or students, and neighbors. At times we participate in various community, civic, sports, and/or cultural events. Why? There are a number of reasons. But chief among them is that these all provide opportunities/settings to make Christ visible out in the midst of their mission field. **WAIT! STOP! I DO NOT KNOW ANY FAMILIES like the one you have described ... Are there SUCH FAMILIES?"**

**Response:** Well, it should be your family and mine!  
**MOREOVER:** To whatever degree any of us don't measure up, we must make some serious decisions:

**a.** We can humble ourselves, repent as needed, and get on the road of DELIGHTING IN GOD, ministering to saints, and of being Foreign Missionaries!

**b.** Or we can make excuses, play church, and invite the judgment of God which will come on saltless ones! (Matt 5:13)

Abundant Grace to Each and All!

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## **SUNDAY SERVICES for MAY 3,10, 17, 24, 31**

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

## **SPECIAL SERVICES during May:**

**\*\* MAY 3, Covered Dish, Fellowship Meal, after the Morning Worship Service**

**\*\*\* MAY 17, LORD'S SUPPER, at the end of the Morning Worship Service // HOME GROUPS!**

**\*\*\*\* MAY 24, 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!) ***MAY 2, Romans 8:28-39***

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study TUESDAY, 5/12/26 @ 11:00 AM – Read Acts 10 \*\*\***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>**