

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 37, September 24, 2019 / 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 and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.**

## BEHOLD THE GLORIOUS UNVEILING OF JESUS!

THE HOLY SPIRIT moved the Apostle John's pen to write, **"Blessed is he that reads and they which hear the words of this prophecy, and KEEP those things that are written therein..."** (Rev. 1:3) In the late 1970s I met M.A. Thomas from India. When asked about the last book of the Bible, he proclaimed: **"MOST SIMPLIST BOOK! JUST LOOK FOR JESUS!"** He was/is right! Therefore, in this article we will simply LOOK FOR JESUS as He is gloriously UNVEILED!

## JESUS— the Sovereign, Supreme, Sufficient, and Eternal LAMB!

**OUR GREAT NEED and privilege as Christians is to SEE Jesus! The more we see Him, the more we will delight in Him! The more we see and delight in Him, the more we will love Him! The more we see, delight in, and love Him— the more we will obey Him! The more we see, delight in, love, and obey Him— the more we will bring Him pleasure! *And that's why we were created in the first place— to bring Him pleasure! (Revelation 4:11)* And the more we see, delight in, love, obey Him, and thus bring Him pleasure— the more we will experience His manifest presence and power, (John 14:21-24; 2 Chron. 16:9; Dan. 11:32b); and the more we will be TRANSFORMED into His likeness! (2 Corinthians 3:1:18)**

**YES, CHRISTIAN... ONE DAY WE SHALL SEE HIM FACE TO FACE; BUT UNTIL THEN—** the Holy Spirit has breathed out the LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, has preserved it; and now the Holy Spirit RESIDES IN YOU to take THE REVELATION (The Unveiling of Jesus!) off the pages and into your spiritual bloodstream!

**The Revelation is the UNVEILING OF JESUS as He is today!** The Revelation is specifically sent to servants [bond-servants] of Christ, to seven churches in Asia, Rev. 1:1; 1:11... who represent the entirety of the LORD'S church until He comes back. **This UNVEILING of JESUS was** revealed to the Apostle John who identified himself as the 'brother and companion in tribulation' of those in the churches. (Rev. 1:9) **In the Revelation WE SEE** (that no matter how strong are the manifestations of evil from satan and/or God-haters) — the risen, ascended, ruling-from-heaven KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS will accomplish all of the Great Triune God's good purposes!

**WHEN READING THE REVELATION it can be very helpful to pause and consider** the 'mind-set' of the persecuted CHRISTIANS who first received this unique unveiling of Jesus. Family members and fellow saints were MISSING— they had been fed to the lions or maybe banished like the Apostle John to slave labor on the isle of Patmos, etc. **Caesar and Rome would have seemed ALMIGHTY.**

In this era of time the church was experiencing MARYTDOM, fear, compromise, and apostasy. HOWEVER, at just the right moment, ALMIGHTY GOD 'invaded' the isle of Patmos and gave John the UNVEILING OF JESUS! When the 'book' was completed, by some means God got the letter to the churches— possibly to Ephesus first!

**CONSIDER THIS POSSIBLE SCENE:** The persecuted saints of Ephesus were likely meeting in secret... and a 'runner'... a 'carrier' came in; the saints would have been startled and likely wondered, "Is he a spy?" He would have proved his credentials and likely reported, ***"I have in my hands a scroll that contains special revelation which the LORD JESUS CHRIST has given to our beloved John to give to the churches!"*** \*\*\* These saints in Christ would have listened as the entire Unveiling of JESUS was read! **I DOUBT that words can capture** the joy, excitement, hope, repenting, infusion of power, and REVIVAL that took

place! \*\*\* **SO, let us** prayerfully READ, BEHOLD JESUS, seek to HEAR, and commit to OBEY the things written in The Revelation— **that WE TOO WILL ENTER INTO A NEW DAY OF JOY, EXCITEMENT, HOPE, REPENTING, power for holiness, and REVIVAL!**

**WHAT ABOUT OUR WORLD TODAY?** We live in an era when waves of deception and a falling away from Biblical Christianity are sweeping the land, (Matt. 24:37-39; Mark 4:14-20). Plus, there is growing PERSECUTION of Bible-believing Christians around the world. **SO, CONSIDER:** When God wanted to encourage JOHN and the first century Church— **HE gave the Unveiling of JESUS! THIS BOOK IS VERY MUCH and especially FOR US, ALSO!**

**TO WIN over our growing fears— let us** take a good look in this Divine Unveiling! The Holy Spirit will UNVEIL **Jesus** as He is, **Jesus** as to what He is doing, **and JESUS AS TO WHAT HE** will be doing!

**TO EMPOWER us as to BEING STRONG OVERCOMERS** in a world that is DROWNING IN SIN— **LET US MEDITATE** in this book and BEHOLD Jesus. WE MUST RECEIVE HIS WORDS IN THIS BOOK— **that is, we must HEAR, KEEP, HEED, and OBEY SPECIFICALLY WHAT JESUS REVEALS IN THIS BOOK.** We can definitely COUNT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT **in this process: John 14:11-26; 15:1-16; 15:26-27; 16:7-14.**

**TO HAVE GOD'S WISDOM** as to MAKING RIGHT CHOICES in future economic upheavals— let us DRINK DEEPLY in the REVELATION! There is much out there in the world telling us how to secure our finances— how to survive or make a killing in BEAR MARKETS, BULL MARKETS...YOU NAME IT. **BUT ONLY ONE BOOK** tells you how to be SECURE IN CHRIST while living in the midst of ECONOMIC and RELIGIOUS BABYLON! **THEREFORE,** Take a good and long look in this book— let us BEHOLD Jesus and HEED WHAT HE SAYS!

**TO STAY TRUE TO THE FAITH WHEN WE HAVE** friends turning their backs on Christ—BEHOLD Jesus unveiling critical reality! YES, losing your life for Christ can be tough (Revelation 13:7-16); but experiencing the WRATH OF GOD IN HELL for eternity (Revelation 14:8-11) is far worse; and NOTHING can compare to the eternal BLISS of those who are IN CHRIST! (Revelation

15:2-4) **THUS, WHEN FACING** trouble, trial, or TRIBULATIONS today or in any of our tomorrows— look in this book and BEHOLD Jesus!

**THE REVELATION 1:1-20** - Turn your eyes upon Jesus! "**Look unto Jesus**" the book of Hebrews exhorts us. **BEHOLD Jesus** revealing Himself through His Bondservants, (Rev 1:1-3). **BEHOLD Jesus** revealing His rest, (Rev 1:4). **BEHOLD the Blood of Jesus** revealing His redeeming LOVE, (Rev 1:5). **BEHOLD Jesus**— the first and the last, the Almighty God, (Rev 1:7-8)! **BEHOLD the MAJESTIC DEITY of Jesus**, (Rev 1:9-13). **BEHOLD the eyes of Jesus** revealing His omniscience, (Rev 1:14). HEAR the **voice of Jesus** revealing His Omnipotence, (Rev 1:15). **BEHOLD the face Jesus** revealing His Omnipresence, (Rev 1:16). **BEHOLD**, the SENSITIVITY OF JESUS; **AND** we will, LIKE JOHN, bow and worship in REVERENCE! And JESUS will comfort us and we will receive a fresh commission! (Rev. 1;17-20)

**THE REVELATION 2:1 - 3:22** - **BEHOLD Jesus SHEPHERDING His Blood-bought saints**— HE SEES, HE KNOWS, HE JUDGES, HE ENCOURAGES, HE WARNS, HE PROMISES! **He has a special agenda for every Christian, as reflected in the letters to the seven churches: Give Him FIRST LOVE; Suffer** for His name's sake; **Stand** for TRUTH in the midst of error; **Follow** after RIGHTEOUSNESS in the midst of evil; **Manifest** life and purity; **KEEP GOD'S WORD AND DO NOT DENY HIS NAME; BE WHOLEHEATED IN A HALF-HEARTED WORLD.** (The above is one primary point from each of the seven letters to the churches— JESUS is calling us in these same paths!)

**[THE REVELATION 4:1 - 16:21** - **BEHOLD Jesus Ruling this Present World!** John was caught up into heaven, where he saw a vision of God Almighty on his throne; and **JESUS was/IS IN CHARGE of the nations and events on earth!**]

**Chapter 4- IN GREAT WONDER,** John is caught up into heaven, where he sees a vision of God Almighty on his throne. All of Christ's followers and the heavenly angels are worshiping God! **BEHOLD HIM! Let us JOIN IN with them!**

**Chapter 5- BEHOLD JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD! HE IS IN CHARGE! ALL IS ACCORDING TO PLAN. **THEREFORE SING:**** Rev. 5: 9-10. LET US WORSHIP JESUS for His WORTHINESS as the Lamb of God.

**MAKE NOTE:** All throughout the Revelation there are a number of worship scenes. PRAISE TO GOD is continual. **When there is presently so much grief on earth— how can there be so much JOY and PRAISE in heaven?** In ancient times, it is said that Nero ‘fiddled’ while Rome burned! DOES GOD NOT CARE? (1) Yes, look at Jesus on Calvary! (2) Because of what Jesus accomplished at Calvary, PEACE ON EARTH IS COMING... and is already here in the hearts of the redeemed.

**Chapter 6-** BEHOLD JESUS is in heaven and IN CONTROL OF EVENTS and nations ON EARTH... and unfolding events according to His plan!

**Chapter 7-** BEHOLD JESUS— HE SAVES JEWS and GENTILES! He saves a NUMBERLESS MULTITUDE... FOR ETERNITY! They had been SUFFERING SAINTS! MANY BECAME MARTYRS— **but look at them now, Rev. 7:14-17.**

**Chapter 8-** BEHOLD JESUS as He continues to UNFOLD events on earth. Holy WRATH IS COMING. THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE, Rev. 8:3-5.

**Chapter 9-** BEHOLD JESUS! **At the command of Jesus,** DAYS OF WRATH are coming with increasing intensity TO THE EARTH... Rev. 9:6; 9:20-21!

**Chapter 10-** BEHOLD JESUS - things on earth MOVE ON HIS TIME TABLE and according to His sovereign agenda, Rev. 10:7!

**Chapter 11-** BEHOLD JESUS! TRUST His Word— JESUS is moving all events to a GREAT DAY OF HIS RETURN, Rev. 11: 15-18! **NOTE: This makes many ANGRY! The Revelation also UNVEILS the deep abiding depravity of God hating sinners.**

**Chapter 12-** BEHOLD JESUS as He UNVEILS His VICTORY, HIS Conquest of the great enemy satan, Rev. 12: 9-12, 17! (This one chapter covers THOUSANDS of years!)

**Chapter 13-** BEHOLD Jesus the true Christ... in sovereign control, exposing the deceiving counterfeit Christ; and the power of grace to saints enabling them to be found faithful unto death!

**Chapter 14-** BEHOLD the PRAISE TO JESUS coming from the REDEEMED, Rev. 14:1-4; **BEHOLD** the compassion of JESUS IN CONTINUING TO SEND FORTH THE GOSPEL, vs 6-7; **BEHOLD** the HOLY WRATH of JESUS, the LAMB, Rev. 14:9-11; **BEHOLD** the shepherding word to those who are sound in faith to Jesus, Rev. 14:12-13.

**Chapter 15-** BEHOLD JESUS, the victorious give PRAISE to Him for the splendor of HIS Redeeming Love, His Perfect Redemption and Perfect Justice, Rev. 15:1-4.

**Chapter 16-** BEHOLD JESUS as He pours out the FULLNESS of His wrath...!

**BY THE WAY:** BEWARE! BE DESCERNING AS TO THE SOURCE OF MIRACLES, Rev. 13:13-14; 16:14!

**O SINNER, BEWARE OF HARDING YOUR HEART AGAINST GOD:** Rev. 16:9; 16:2.

**Chapter 17-** BEHOLD JESUS unmasking the wickedness of the GREAT HARLOT OF WORLD RELIGION, Rev. 17:1-6; and BEHOLD JESUS is His grand SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NATIONS, Rev. 17:15-18.

**Chapter 18-** BEHOLD JESUS judging ECONOMIC BABYLON and acclaiming true values, Rev. 18:4-5. **[BEWARE OF LOVING THE WORLD!]**

**Chapter 19-** BEHOLD JESUS! HE IS COMING AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS; He will celebrate union with His bride... AND BEHOLD the vengeance of Jesus (Rev. 19:11-21) conquering rebellion and righting all wrongs.

**Chapter 20-** BEHOLD JESUS vanquishing the devil and renewing the earth, Rev. 20: 1-10; and... BEHOLD the judgment of Jesus CONSIGNING the rebels to their eternal DESTINY, Rev. 20:11-15.

**Chapter 21-22-** BEHOLD JESUS unveiling Paradise for His Bride who is comprised of ALL THE REDEEMED OF ALL AGES, Rev. 21:10-14. **FINALLY, the Revelation 22 concludes with,**

1. A GLORIOUS ETERNITY FOR THE REDEEMED, Rev. 22: 3-5
2. AN EXHORTATION TO KEEP THE SAYING OF THIS PROPHECY, Rev. 22:7
3. GLORIOUS REMINDERS, Rev. 22:13-14



#### 4. The HOLY SPIRIT'S FINAL CALL, Rev. 22:16-21.

**NOTICE, AS WE TRULY 'SEE' JESUS unveiled— OUR CONCERN IS,**

1. **Not conquering the world**— Christ will do that.
2. **Not living for all we can get**— Christ is preparing our treasured home.
3. **Not being ANXIOUS about or fearing the future**— Christ holds the future.
4. **NOT PAYING BACK** THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED ME— God is going to settle all accounts!
5. **And since, whether we live or die, WE ARE THE LORD'S**— we not only need not to be afraid; but we can go forth BOLD WITH THE GOSPEL until He calls us home!

**Grace to all in Christ! / James Bell /**  
**[www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

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### **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**

→ Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door.**

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

**WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

**\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY:**

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 1, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[DOUBLE Doors, under AWNING, open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am]*

**\*\*\* MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:**

EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am: (STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... DOUBLE DOORS, under the drive-thru awning. **[DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!]**

**SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 29**

**9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages**

**10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service**

**SPECIAL EVENT: \*\*\*\*\* September 29 — SPECIAL EVENT — AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE @ 6PM... in the Church auditorium. [Let Bradley and/or Adam know... if you would like to sing... or share a Scripture! **THEME: "I LOVE YOU, LORD... BECAUSE YOU FIRST LOVED ME!"****

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And the city has no need of  
sun or moon to shine on it,  
**for the glory of God gives it light,**  
and its lamp is the Lamb.

Revelation 21:23