



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 31, August 4, 2020 / 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 GRAND UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST— Revelation 1-22!**

As has been said by another, ***“THE WORD OF GOD HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE GOD OF THE WORD!*** INDEED, Genesis 1:1, begins with, “IN THE BEGINNING GOD...!” All through the Old Testament, GOD IS being revealed as the ONE TRUE GOD— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! The resurrected CHRIST informed His first disciples that the Old Testament spoke of Him! (Luke 24:25-27; 24:44) Obviously, the Gospels and the Epistles reveal GOD... and Jesus says, ‘when you have seen Me, you have seen the FATHER!’ (John 14:9-11)

**WHEN WE GET TO the very last book of the Bible**, the Holy Spirit moves of the Apostle John’s hand to proclaim **that it is ‘THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST!’** Bro. M.A. Thomas, from Kota, India, was right: ***“THE REVELATION!? IT IS THE MOST SIMPLIST BOOK! JUST LOOK FOR JESUS!”***

**Revelation 1:1— This Unveiling was given to Jesus so as to reveal to His servants** (doulas- bond slaves... CHRISTIANS, THE REDEEMED!) **things which ‘must shortly’ come to pass... (Quickly! Speedily!) This book was SPECIFICALLY sent to**

‘HIS SERVANT’, John— a Bond-slave, (‘doulas’); and an Apostle of and a pastor in the New Testament Church)

The first word to those who read THE UNVEILING is this: ***BLESSED are those who ‘read, hear, and keep/obey’ WHAT is revealed in the Revelation. (Rev. 1:3)*** [Only Christians have such ability and desire!]

Moreover, the Apostle John was led to write to and send what he received to ***‘his companions in tribulation,*** (1:9); to (1:4) seven CHURCHES in Asia. Thus, there would be specific applications to each of those churches; and specific applications to all churches, who comprise the TRUE BODY OF CHRIST. **In Revelation 22:16,** we have the only other time that the word CHURCH is used in the Revelation. The Revelation BEGINS in chapter 1 and closes in chapter 22 with the church— **informing that all of it is written to and for the CHURCH which Jesus had/has promised to build!**

In other places in The Revelation, Christians are called by various names/terms — *‘those slain for the Word of God’ (Rev. 6:9-11); ‘those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb’; ‘those who have the testimony of Jesus’ (Rev. 12:11, 17); ‘those who follow the Lamb, those who were redeemed from among men’; ... saints who keep God’s commandments and have faith in Jesus’ (Rev. 14); ‘those with Jesus who are called, faithful, and chosen, (Rev. 17:14); etc.*

AS STATED: The word ‘CHURCH’ is not used after Chapter three... until almost the very end of the book, Revelation 22:16. THUS, and sincerely, **many believe that** the term ‘Church’ is not used after chapter three **BECAUSE** the church has been raptured. And thus, many believe that NOTHING said in Revelation Chapter 4 and

following has any direct bearing upon Christians today— because they teach that from Chapter 4 onward, the church is in heaven. [Maybe there is, maybe there is not a pre-tribulation rapture of Christians.] Regardless, NO WHERE is such a ‘rapture’ stated in the 22 chapters of the Revelation.

**REALITY:** The Bible gives MANY DIFFERENT ‘names’... all speaking of JESUS— The Bread of Life; The Lamb, etc. BUT just because a certain name is not used in a section of Scripture cannot mean that He ceases to be, for example, the Bread of Life, etc. LIKEWISE, THERE ARE MANY names and terms used for the Church — the Bride, those who follow the Lamb, the redeemed, saints, etc. **AND ALL THROUGH OUT the Revelation,** Jesus is seen working with, and through, and on behalf of His blood-bought redeemed, His called out ones! (Which is what the word ‘Church’ means)

**THE ENTIRE UNVEILING is specifically addressed to THE SERVANTS OF CHRIST,** (Rev. 1:1; 22:6), **to Churches (‘Called out ones!’)**, who are made up of those who are SAINTS, who are REDEEMED TO GOD BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS out of every kindred, tongue, tribe, and nation! (Rev. 5:9)... As already demonstrated, there are ‘scenes’ of those who were ‘slain for the Word of God!’ (Rev. 6:9)... There are those who OVERCOME by the blood of the Lamb! (Rev. 12:10-12)... And there are many additional references... **INCLUDING the reality that** Jesus will save a large number of folks out of the 12 tribes of Israel, (12,000 out of each tribe, or 144,000... which is likely a symbolic number to set forth the literal reality of the total number of Israelites whom Jesus saves), even as He saves a numberless multitude from all nations. (Revelation 7:1-17) **[AND ALL OF ALL OF THESE WILL ULTIMATELY BE THE ONE GRAND GROUP OF THE REDEEMED FOUND IN REVELATION 21-22— THE LAMB’S SERVANTS, Rev. 22:1-7.]**

**YES, many believe** that all of the salvation activity of Revelation 7, happens during 7 years right before Christ returns. [Maybe yes. Maybe no. All sides, each quoting various Scriptures, proclaim that they are right. I would encourage a little humility.] **THIS MUCH IS SURE:** All the redeemed pictured in Revelation 7, (**be they** from one of the 12 Tribes of Israel **or from** one of the nations of the world)... call them what you will— ‘Tribulations saints’ or whatever, **the REALITY IS THAT THE FIRST SAINTS TO RECEIVE THE REVELATION WERE SAINTS IN TRIBULATION! (Rev. 1:9). They received instruction and encouragement from ALL of the Revelation, not merely chapters 1-3. They were not promised escape from tribulation, (or from ‘the great tribulation’), by a rapture at any place in The Revelation. FURTHERMORE, all the redeemed from all ages shall one day be before the THRONE OF GOD AND THE LAMB... as HIS SERVANTS— ‘And His SERVANTS (‘doulas’, BOND-SLAVES!) shall SERVE HIM, and SEE HIS FACE, and shall REIGN for ever and ever!’ (Rev. 22:5)**

**AT THE END OF THE UNVEILING, in Revelation 22:16...** the Holy Spirit moves John to write, ***“I Jesus have sent my angel to testify unto you these things IN THE CHURCHES...”*** This is the only other use of the word ‘church’ in the Revelation— **AND the clear reality is that the whole UNVEILING OF JESUS is about HIS WORKING (1)** with and through His blood bought saints, servants (‘doulas’); **as He simultaneously (2)** unfolds His activities in and through the nations of the world; **and as He IN HOLY WRATH (3)** brings about the ultimate destruction of the world-wide BABYLON system and satan and his hordes; **and as He (4)** BRINGS ALL OF HISTORY TO THE ULTIMATE CLIMAX of the glorious DISPLAY OF THE FRUIT OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST POURED OUT AT CALVARY! (Revelation 21-22)

**FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT, it is very helpful to receive the Revelation THROUGH THE EYES of those Christians who first received it!**

**1. The world of the Apostle John:** The Roman government would allow her CAESAR WORSHIPING citizens to break in and rob your home IF you were a believer IN JESUS CHRIST. (The writer of the Hebrews commended those who "took joyfully the spoiling of your goods"... Hebrews 10:34.) **IN 2020, PARTS OF OUR WORLD ARE THE SAME... SUCH may be coming to us!**

**2.** At times the CAESARS would go on rampages... being bent on destroying Christians. Many of the early Christians were slaves... with no rights. IN SUCH A WORLD, it would have been easy to have DESPAIRED and wondered— ***"GOD WHERE ARE YOU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"***

**The REVELATION answers that question— for troubled and persecuted saints of any and every age! God's answer did not give John or any of his 'COMPANIONS IN TRIBULATION' a promise of escape from persecution and tribulation at the hands of evil men who are agents of satan! THEY CONTINUED to suffer and be martyred.**

[YES, there are seasons, and will be in the last days, when Jesus has and will protect His FAITHFUL blood bought saints: The Philadelphian Christians, who were faithfully enduring trials, would not be overwhelmed by the attacks of men or satan, Revelation 3:10; the saints at Smyrna, were exhorted not to fear what they will suffer... but to be FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, (Rev. 2:9-10). **BOTH WERE PROTECTED!**]

**AFTER RECEIVING THIS AMAZING LETTER, JOHN and his companions in tribulation WOULD SUFFER ON— BUT THEY NEVER SUFFERED THE SAME!** Their hope was SURE: Rev. 7:9-17. The day of Justice would come: Rev. 14:8-13. This same comfort abides for all the REDEEMED today!

**3.** JOHN WAS LIVING in the Roman world where infiltrators in the church ("grievous wolves")... secretly reported what was said at the intimate church fellowship meetings! (LUKE 21: 12-16) **AND, AS FOR JOHN,** the Roman AUTHORITIES had finally pounded ON HIS door to drag him away FROM all his brothers and Sisters in Christ and place him in slavery! HE WAS EXILED ON PATMOS TO THE END OF HIS LIFE! SO, THESE WERE DISTURBING DAYS FOR THE AGED APOSTLE JOHN.

**4.** THE APOSTLE JOHN had also been facing, VERY TROUBLESOME TIMES IN THE CHURCHES! TO UNDERSTAND some of John's agony AS TO THE CHURCH ...we SIMPLY Turn **to the epistle of First John.** This epistle unveils much of the decay which JOHN SAW IN THE PROFESSING CHURCH... THAT HAS BOTH WHEAT AND TARES IN IT.

JOHN no doubt GRIEVED... BECAUSE THERE WERE: **1.** Fakes who were walking in darkness (1:6); **2.** Deluded ones saying they never sinned (1:8); **3.** Liars who contradicted Christ by their words (1:10) and deeds (2:4); **4.** Blinded and hate filled church goers walking in darkness (2:9-11); **5.** Adulterous, STUFF-seeking world-lovers devoid of God's love (2:15-17); **6.** Apostate antichrists within the flock who HAD quit (2:18-19) the church... BUT WHO spued false and Christ-denying doctrine on the way out (2:23); **7.** In Christ's church THERE were Vacillating and fearful, promise-doubting members (2:25); **8.** Devilish sinners WERE in the fellowship (3:8); **9.** THERE were Hypocritical children of Satan who WERE loves-less

and unholy (3:10); **10.** THERE were Vicious and hate-filled neighbors and co-workers who were hardened against the way of life and hope of the genuine Christians (3:13);

**11.** THERE were Murderous hating, so-called followers of the Way whose lives denied Christ (3:15); **12.** There were Hard hearted church members who could care less for the unfortunate fellow believers and wouldn't spare a dime to aid them (3:17); **13.** THERE were Demon-influenced spies planted by Satan in the church to give messages that would defile, pollute and confuse the true worshipers of Jesus (4:3);

**14.** THERE were Worldly ONES who talked ABOUT and loved the system of earth and could not hear or comprehend the ways of Christ, (4:5);

**15.** THERE were Unloving (4:8) and fear-filled professing Christians (4:18) who had no love for their brothers and sisters in Christ (4:20);

**16.** THERE were Disobedient to the Word (5:2) and defeated, world seeking (5:4) unbelievers masquerading as believers (5:10)..... while living in unbelief. **Other than all that they had no problems!**

**WE ALSO, LIVE IN A TIME WHEN THERE IS BACKSLIDDING IN THE CHURCH— A FALLING AWAY FROM GENUINE CHRISTIANITY. TIDAL WAVES OF DECEPTION ARE SWEEPING OVER THE LAND! SO, What WAS AND is God's FORMOST, PRIMARY answer for bad times? LET US ALL LISTEN— THE ANSWER could change our lives PERMANENTLY!**

When God wanted to encourage his faithful and aged servant, and STRENGTHEN THE SPIRITUAL BACKBONE IN JOHN— He unveiled

JESUS to him! **JESUS, AS HE IS TODAY!** FOR JOHN, his companions in TRIBULATION, and for us— JESUS CHRIST IS UNVEILED!

**In the REVELATION,** WE SEE CHRIST- Risen, ascended SEATED IN HEAVEN, ALL GLORIOUS and MAJESTIC and SOVEREIGN; and we see Him WORKING IN AND THROUGH HIS BLOOD BOUGHT REDEEMED ON EARTH! We see Him MOVING KINGS, KINGDOMS, EVENTS ON EARTH; and POURING OUT JUDGEMENT and WRATH; AND SETTING UP HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH! **AND BRINGING IN THE REAL NEW AGE— the New Heaven and a New Earth FOR ALL ETERNITY**

**1. What is the answer to fear?** Take a good and long look in this book and THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL UNVEIL Jesus! Jesus as He is; Jesus as to what He is doing; and JESUS AS TO WHAT HE will be doing!

**2. What is the SECRET OF BEING AN OVERCOMER** in a world THAT is DROWNING IN SIN? LET US MEDITATE in this book and BEHOLD Jesus... AS HE IS TODAY; and RECEIVE HIS WORDS! HEAR THIS BOOK KEEP! HEED and OBEY SPECIFICALLY WHAT JESUS REVEALS IN THIS BOOK!

**3. What is the answer to MAKING RIGHT CHOICES in future economic upheavals?** There is much out there 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 KEEP FROM LOSING YOUR SOUL WHEN ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS BABYLON FALLS!!!!*** THEREFORE, take a good and long look in this book and BEHOLD Jesus! ... AND HEED WHAT HE SAYS!



**4. HOW CAN WE STAY TRUE TO THE FAITH WHEN** WE HAVE friends turning their backs on Christ? Take a good and long look in this book and SEE AND BEHOLD Jesus!

**5. WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY DEPARTURES FROM THE FAITH AND THE PRIMARY DESIRES OF JESUS FOR HIS CHURCH... UNTIL HE COMES BACK? DRINK DEEPLY IN THE REVELATION!**

**6. What IS OUR GREATEST NEED...** OUR GREATEST DEFENSE WHEN FACING trouble, trial or TRIBULATIONS...today or IN any of our tomorrows? Take a good and long look in this book and BEHOLD Jesus— JESUS IS REVEALED as HE IS TODAY—  
**Sovereign MAJESTIC Lord: \*\*\* SOVERIGN! \*\*\* SUPREME! \*\*\* SUFFICIENT!**

**O HOW We need to BEHOLD Jesus:**

1. BEHOLD Jesus Revealing His Majesty 1:1-20 - **See him!**
2. BEHOLD Jesus Challenging His Church: 2:1- 3:22 - **Listen to him!**
3. BEHOLD Jesus RULING the CREATED WORLD- 4:1-16:21- **Trust him!**
4. BEHOLD Jesus Conquering the Rebellion- 17:1- 21:8 - **Follow him!**
5. BEHOLD Jesus Unveiling His Paradise- 21:9 - 22:5 - **Join him!**
6. BEHOLD Jesus Calling His REDEEMED to come to Him 22:6-21 - **Answer him!** Amen. Hallelujah!

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

**NEWS NOTES:**

**EVERY Saturday, \*\*\* 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: New Studies— “SPECIAL, NEEDED WORDS FROM THE WORD OF GOD... FOR MEN!”**

**\*\*\* NEXT Ladies Bible Study— August 18, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

**SUNDAYS— August 9, 16, 23, 30 - Every Sunday we have:**

**\*\*\*Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **\*\*\* WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

**Additional Sunday Events:**

**1. August 9, 5:30pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.**

**2. August 16, LORD’S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.**

**3. August 23, 6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... presently an important STUDY on PRAYER, R.C. Sproul videos...**

**4. August 30, Church-wide SINGING/PRAISE to the LORD... and BEING A CONGREGATION WITH A RENEWED PASSION FROM GOD!**

**\*\*\*\* TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi’s home...**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm—**

**\*\* Adult Prayer Service**

**\*\* Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

**\*\*\* HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES**

**1. IF YOU ARE SICK... OR** if you are presently 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... **you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such.**

**3. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to ‘social distancing’—** 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

**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. IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE—** no unsupervised Children!

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**6. THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service for July 26 ... SIMPLY GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)**

[At the same location, you can access our YOUTUBE page... and view/listen to previous services; Men’s and Ladies Bible Studies!]

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**7. LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:**

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

**OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING @ <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**