

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 32, August 11, 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... to His Church— Revelation 1-22! (Part 2)

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS to receive The Revelation were experiencing tribulation/persecution because of faith in Jesus: Family members and other fellow saints were MISSING. Some may have been fed to the lions; or maybe banished like the Apostle John to slave labor on the isle of Patmos. It is likely that **these persecuted saints were meeting in secret, somewhere in or around Ephesus... when suddenly a 'messenger' came in—** He proved his credentials. He had just left the aged Apostle John; and LIKELY shared something like this:

"GREETING FROM JOHN! Jesus is giving him grace in the midst of his suffering. **I have in my hands a scroll** that God has given to John to give to the churches!" I SUSPECT that the entire Unveiling of JESUS was read without stopping! By the time the last 'AMEN' of the Revelation was read— I DOUBT THAT words can capture the joy, the excitement, the hope, the repenting, THE REVIVAL that took place!

***** I ENCOURAGE the reading of the Revelation STRAIGHT THROUGH in ONE SITTING!** Increased persecution seems to

be coming! **WE CHRISTIANS NEED ALL OF THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST!**

The Revelation is deeply ROOTED in

[1] What JESUS HAS DONE! (Rev. 1:5); **and**

[2] Unveils how Christians should 'SEE' Jesus, (Rev. 1:13-18); **and**

[3] Unveils what Jesus Christ **is doing** at this present time; **and**

[4] Unveils what Jesus **will be doing** in days ahead; **and**

[5] Unveils the reality of His ultimate intentions being fulfilled; **and**

[6] As revealed in chapter 1, The Revelation was/is written to and for 'the servants/slaves' of Jesus Christ; and given to the Apostle John to give to brothers and sisters in Christ who are 'companions in tribulation— in other words, it's for the CHURCH. The entire book is a grand source of encouragement and direction to Christians, servants of Jesus, who are living in the midst of TRIBULATION: 'BLESSED are those who 'read, hear THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY, and keep/obey' WHAT is revealed [in the Revelation]. (Rev. 1:1-3) Only Christians have such ability and desire— THE ENTIRE book is specifically for the church of JESUS CHRIST.

That the word, 'CHURCH' is not used again after chapter 3, until chapter 22:16, is of zero significance— for the New Testament uses a variety of names/terms to speak of those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB! 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.

READ THE REVELATION LOOKING FOR THE SOVEREIGN LAMB OF GOD'S ACTIVITY! —

[1] The Sovereign Lamb is in Heaven working with, in and through His BLOOD BOUGHT REDEEMED on earth. This is revealed throughout the twenty two chapters.

[2] The Sovereign Lamb is in Heaven ruling and over ruling people and events on earth— including all KINGS AND KINGDOMS, PRESIDENTS, DICTATORS; and even events of this present hour.

JESUS is MOVING THEM ALL toward that great and glorious day when He, the Lord Jesus Christ, will come back to this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords; and will move everything FORWARD to the eternal New heavens and earth! **NOTE:** In the midst of all the events set forth in the Revelation— **THE REDEEMED / the Saints /** (Be they before, or during tribulation, and/or after the Great Tribulation), **will EXPERIENCE THE WRATH OF MEN AND SATAN**, BUT NEVER THE WRATH OF GOD.

[3] THE SOVEREIGN LAMB is ultimately ETERNALLY enthroned; and His holy Bride will be with Him in the New Earth and the New Heavens. **REVELATION 21-22—** THE SUPREME, ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL HISTORY WILL BE REVEALED! Namely, [A BRIDE / THE LAMB'S WIFE, COMPRISED OF ALL THOSE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB!...]... AND ALL from all ages of time who are saved by the BLOOD of the LAMB WILL

SERVE Him, SEE HIM FACE TO FACE, and reign with Him forever and forever!

THOSE REDEEMED BY CHRIST!

Revelation, chapters 1-20— Those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb are referred to by a variety of names and titles: Churches; Saints; GOD’S ELECT; Those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, etc. — **[1] ALL through** the Book of Revelation, those redeemed by the blood of the LAMB are seen on earth, moving through struggles and tribulations and martyrdom; and/or they are seen IN HEAVEN. **[2] WHILE ON EARTH** THE REDEEMED ARE the subject of man’s HATRED and WRATH and Satan’s hatred and wrath. **[3] THEY ARE OFTEN** PRESENT WHEN GOD POURS OUT SOME EXPRESSION OF HIS WRATH— AS WAS NOAH; AS WAS ISRAEL ON THE NIGHT OF PASSOVER; AS WAS LOT. **BUT ALTHOUGH AFFECTED, THEY ARE PROTECTED** and they are **NEVER THE SUBJECTS OF GOD'S WRATH. [4] ULTIMATELY**, all of the LORD’S REDEEMED become the LAMB’S BRIDE/WIFE completely triumphant in Heaven! **(Revelation 21-22)**

THUS, it is easy to see why The Revelation has been and is a great source of encouragement to the true SAINTS OF GOD IN CHRIST who have always BEEN and WHO ALWAYS will be persecuted; or in tribulation. Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33) The Revelation could be called Jesus’ commentary on John 16:33!**

The Revelation gave to the early Christians, (and to all Christians since then), a very powerful message: **The Lamb is**

the Lion! He is supreme! He is sovereign and He is sufficient! You may be killed; but you will REIGN for eternity!

THUS, it is no surprise that the Revelation is filled with encouraging praise songs exalting the Conquering Christ — reminding Christians of every age that God will have the last say!

THUS, the Revelation reminds us that joy is not the absence of suffering; but the presence of God and confidence in God IN THE MIDST OF our dark world.

THOSE WHO FIRST READ THE REVELATION were members of New Testament Churches; and many were being martyred in that era. *HOWEVER, there was no ESCAPE FROM TRIBULATION BY 'RAPTURE' FOR THEM or for MILLIONS OF PERESECUTED CHRISTIANS FOR THE LAST 2000 YEARS!*

WARNING: "IN CHINA, (When the communists took over, around the 1950s), THE CHRISTIANS had been taught, ***"Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be raptured."*** Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death. **Later I (Corrie Ten Boom), heard a Pastor from China say, sadly, *'We have failed. We should have made the people strong for persecution rather than telling them Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes—to stand and not faint.'***"

WARNING: TODAY in 2020, fears are growing because of DARK THINGS that are happening and that may come upon America. EVEN SO, week after week I see FACEBOOK posts AND I hear people who are saying things like this: ***"BUT DON'T WORRY, WE WILL BE RAPTURED before these things hit hard!"***

NOTE: The pre-tribulation rapture theory may OR may not turn out to be correct. BUT sadly it has FUELED the wrong message to millions— INSTEAD OF GETTING DEEPLY GROUNDED so as to be FOUND FAITHFUL in dark hours of persecution, MANY, (like the saints in China and like many in 2020), are looking for ESCAPE.

HOWEVER, for 2000 years the Revelation SHOUTS, ***"Fear none of the things which you will suffer... BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH; AND I WILL GIVE THEE THE CROWN OF LIFE!"*** (Rev. 2:10)

MOREOVER, a major message of THE REVELATION to suffering, persecuted Christians is to LOOK BEYOND THE DAYS OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATION— LOOK AT THE GLORY THAT'S COMING! The Revelation gives needed re-assurance that **IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL, WHEN WE SEE JESUS! (Revelation 19-22)** SO, LET US BE FAITHFUL LABORERS TILL HE COMES!

TRULY, TRULY JESUS IS UNVEILED AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THE REVELATION!

1. JESUS CHRIST: (Rev. 1) Risen, Ascended, Seated in heaven, all Glorious! **2. JESUS CHRIST:** (Rev. 2-18) - From heaven working in, though, and for His redeemed who are on earth or in heaven.

3. JESUS CHRIST: (Rev. 4-18) - From heaven, moving kings and kingdoms on earth! **JESUS CHRIST:** (Rev. 4-18) - From heaven bringing forth judgment and WRATH! **JESUS CHRIST:** (Rev. 4-18) - Moving all things ever closer to His RETURN (Rev. 11:15-19; 19:1-21) to earth!

4. JESUS CHRIST: (Rev. 20-22) - ULTIMATELY, JESUS will bring forth new heavens and earth, making all things ready for the

LAMB'S WIFE— the redeemed of all ages who will see God face to face, serve Him, and reign with Him for all eternity! (Rev. 21-22)

THE REVELATION REVEALS ACTIONS and ACTIVITY OF JESUS ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO ARE REDEEMED!

1. There is a glorious revelation of JESUS as He is today, **Rev. 1:1-19!** **2. Jesus sends** personalized letters to His Churches, **Rev. 2-3, WHERE HE REVEALS IN SPECIFIC WAYS** — **** Who He is; ** What He likes; ** What He does not like; ** What He commends; and ** What He is against.**

3. Jesus gives protection for those redeemed from the 12 tribes of Israel: **Rev. 7:1-4.** **4. Jesus gives** eternal blessings to a numberless multitude of the redeemed from all the nations of the world: **Rev. 7:9-17.**

5. Jesus gives His persecuted saints overcoming power in dealing with satan: **Rev. 12:9-17.** **6. Jesus gives** the anti-Christ system power to kill saints: **Rev. 13:7-10**

7. Jesus tells us of the redeemed 'FROM AMONG MEN', who sing, and who follow JESUS: **Rev. 14:1-5; 15:2-4.** (The saints of God in Christ, for the last 2000 years, now and in the future have appeared, do appear and will appear to be fools as they are martyred for faith in Christ alone!)

8. Jesus enlightens us to see that things are not as they presently seem— FOR GOD'S WRATH against the wicked COMES; JUSTICE PREVAILS; and SAINTS IN CHRIST REIGN and REJOICE FOR ALL ETERNITY, **Rev. 14:8-13!** JESUS, not man writes the last chapters!

(1) Evil men and satanic beings in these present times look so almighty: **Rev. 13:7; 15-17**→ BUT, they will experience the wrath of the LAMB for eternity: **Rev. 14:9-11!**

9. Jesus is orchestrating events and reveals the true meaning of VICTORY: **Rev. 15:1-4 SO** — **[IS JESUS WORTH DYING FOR? YES! Rev. 14:12-13; Rev. 15:2-3]**

10. Jesus is ever watching over His redeemed— warning against compromise; avenging them: **Rev. 17-18:4; 18:20**

11. Jesus is coming back to cast down all rebellion and to bring about the marriage of the LAMB to His Bride: **Rev. 11:15-19; 19:1-9**

12. Jesus is coming to rule and reign on earth; and the redeemed shall reign with Him: **Rev. 20:1-15; Rev. 5:9-10; Rev. 2:26**

13. Ultimately, Jesus will bring about a new heavens and earth; and all of His redeemed will enter into the eternity of the grand purpose of all present human history: **Rev. 21-22**

a. The redeemed of all ages: **Rev. 21:9**→ the bride, the LAMB'S WIFE b. The redeemed of all ages: **Rev. 22:3-5**→ Serving Him; Seeing His face; reigning with him... forever!

THE REVELATION MOVES US TO HAVE OUR DAILY LIVING grounded in FAITH that RIGHT NOW,

JESUS IS:

1. Risen, ascended and seated in heaven, all glorious, majestic and Sovereign; **2. Working** in and through His redeemed on

earth; **3. Moving** kings, kingdoms and events on earth;
4. Pouring out judgment and wrath;

5. And moving all things ever closer to the day when JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF will return and set up His kingdom; and ultimately bring all things to the grand MARRIAGE SUPPER and the NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH... for all eternity!!

"Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20).

Grace to one and all! James Bell

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 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 16, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

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

**3. 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!**

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**

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

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>