

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 22, June 1, 2021 / 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!"***

JESUS IS COMING BACK! BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH!

DOES the New Testament reveal what we can expect life to be like on planet earth until Jesus comes back? **Does the New Testament give warnings** to heed, **attitudes** to embrace, **and specific work** for saints to do until Jesus comes back? **YES**, and one of several chapters in the Bible that sets forth clear truth on these matters is **Mark 13!**

I. Mark 13:1-4— *Then as He [JESUS] went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" ² And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"*

[Herod's Temple! The highly impressed disciples directed the attention of Jesus to Herod's Temple. Doubtless they were stunned as Jesus foretold the Temple's utter destruction! (Matt. 24:1-3, Luke 21:5-7) Moreover, what Jesus predicted in 30 A.D., Mark recorded in about 65 A.D. And it actually happened in 70 A.D.

What happened? The Jews rebelled against Rome and the Roman Emperor Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and killed 1,000,000 Jews. **However**, as Jesus continues to teach it is clear that there is no way that all of the prophecies which Jesus sets forth in Mark 13 were fulfilled in 70 A.D.]

[Further note: Keep in mind, that Jesus is teaching/equipping those who were called by God to be the 'foundation' builders for the CALLED OUT ONES, His church: Eph. 2:19-22.]

II. Mark 13:5-13— ⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives **you**. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. ⁷ But **when you hear** of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, **but the end is not yet**. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. **These are the beginnings of sorrows**. ⁹ **"But watch out for yourselves**, for they will deliver **you** up to councils, and **you** will be beaten in the synagogues. **You** will be brought before rulers and kings *for My sake*, for a testimony to them. ¹⁰ **And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations**. ¹¹ But when they **arrest you** and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given **you** in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ **And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. [In these verses, Jesus began to unveil** - not only events that would take place in 70AD - **but JESUS also** unveiled that which

His disciples can expect to happen in the world— **until Jesus comes back!]**

These situations and events are not constant. They are often radically different in various parts of the world on the same day! Nevertheless, they are an ongoing part of life in our fallen world, until Jesus returns. But also, as time goes by, there is a GROWING INCREASE in these tragic realities. (Matt. 10:17-22, 24:4-14, Luke 21:8-19)]

Mark 13:5-13— these events HAVE BEEN happening since the New Testament era; they are happening now; and they are coming upon the earth, ultimately with a vengeance:

1. False Christs - Rev. 6:2, Matt. 24:5 /
2. War - Rev. 6:3-4, Matt. 24:6-7 /
3. Famine - Rev. 6:5-6, Matt. 24:7 /
4. Pestilence- Rev. 6:7-8, Matt. 24:7
5. Persecution and martyrdom and tribulation
- Rev. 6:9-1; Matt. 24:9, 28

[These ARE NOT signs that the return of Christ is necessarily near! Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, and Revelation set forth the same sequence.]

NOTE: UNTIL JESUS RETURNS... a strong word of Jesus to His redeemed is: **“Take HEED lest any man deceive you... !”**

As for ‘wars’— Don’t be alarmed— they must come because man knows not the way of peace! **NEITHER politicians NOR religionists know the way of peace. Religionists are promoting PEACE PLANS to save this present world, [Rick Warren],** as they increasingly minimize the substitutionary

atonement of Christ and minimize a future eternity in either heaven or hell! **“Take HEED lest any man deceive you!”**

Mark 13:9-13— Disciples of Jesus are exhorted TO BE ON GUARD, FOR many have been, are, and WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR CHRIST’S SAKE: **1.** Throughout the

centuries, Christ’s disciples have been, are, and will be physically and/or psychologically tortured (v. 9). **2.** Nevertheless, the Gospel

will be proclaimed to all nations, (v. 10; Matt. 24:14). **3.** The Holy Spirit has been, still is, and will be the ‘Divine Speech Writer’

for saints, (v. 11). **4.** In hatred of Christ and/or to save their own skin, even family members have, still do, and will betray saints, (v.

12)! **5. God’s elect have been, are, and will be hated by all (v. 13a).** **6.** He that endures to the end, will be saved. (v. 13b)

[IMPORTANT NOTE: Saints do not endure in order to be saved; they endure because they are saved! The Holy Spirit indwells, empowers, and preserves every genuine Christian!] **7. Moreover,** (although sincerely claimed by many), JESUS did not promise ‘pre-tribulation’ escape for His disciples; nor did the Apostles.**

III. Mark 13:14-23— ¹⁴ “So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. ¹⁶ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ¹⁸ And pray that your flight may not be in winter. ¹⁹ **For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.** ²⁰ **And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the Elect’s sake, whom He chose, He**

shortened the days. ²¹ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. ²² For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the Elect. ²³ But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. **IN THESE VERSES, different, distinct events are unveiled, (Also in Matt. 24:15-25, Luke 21:20-24).**

[1] Around 175-164BC, a man named Antiochus Euphianes erected a pagan altar in the House of God. Jesus prophesied that just as the Holy Place was desecrated then... it would happen again, which is what happened in 70AD. **Moreover**, the New Testament gives implication that **there is coming a day when the ultimate anti-Christ** will once again desecrate all that is holy!

[2] Furthermore, the evil forces of man will be so out of control that **were it not for God’s intervention for the sake of His Elect, all life would be destroyed from the earth.** Interestingly, we now live in such times that man has the stockpiled capability to totally destroy all life on earth!

[3] AND, although many do not realize it— The Roman Catholic organization is building chapels all around the globe, placing “Jesus” in those chapels, and setting up **24/7 Eucharistic Adoration** calling the masses to come a ‘spend an hour with Jesus!’ In other words, all over the world the call is going out— “Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there...”

What is Eucharistic Adoration? Catholics are taught that during the Mass the priest turns the bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true Presence in the form of bread and wine. **“It is Christ.”** (These are quotes from Catholic sources) **Perpetual Adoration is when** the priest takes a

consecrated host, such as the one described above, and places it in a monstrance. The monstrance is then placed in an ornate box on the altar of the church or chapel for adoration. They then have people to sign up to come and SPEND TIME WITH JESUS, (the piece of bread in a box), to worship the bread, which they claim is JESUS. **THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF TOTAL DENIAL OF THE TRUE GOSPEL! Beware! Do not go after these or other false Christs! BEWARE, false teachers are especially effective because of their use of SIGNS AND WONDERS!** (Mark 13:22-23; Rev. 13:11ff; 16:14ff)

REMEMBER: The harlot churches dazzle the physical senses with sights and sounds and signs and wonders. The ELECT, the true Bride of Christ relies exclusively upon the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. **The true Bride of Christ understands that if folk won't** believe the pure Word of God, they will not savingly believe even if one returned from the dead! (Luke 16:27-31) [Note: THE ELECT: one of the designations for saints, Christians, etc. — Romans 8:33; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:6]

IV. Mark 13:24-27— ²⁴ *“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.*

NOTICE THE SEQUENCE, (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28) 1. Apocalyptic disturbances in the heavens. **2.** Arrival of the Son of man as the deliverer. **3. Assembling of the scattered elect.**

(REMEMBER: Jesus is teaching His disciples, (the founding members of the New Testament Church), what to expect in the days of His Second Coming. Interestingly, at no time does He divide His return into two stages divided by 3 or 7 years; NOR do any of the New Testament writers.) His second coming is consistently set forth as ONE EVENT, at one and the same time— with and for His Elect! (1Thes. 4:16-18)

THE ELECT: In addition to ‘elect’ references in Mark 13, Matthew 24, and Luke 18:7; we find additional VERSES, as to the New Testament understanding of the ELECT: Romans 8:33; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 5:21;

2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:6. **SO, IT IS BY GRACE,** whether it be Adam and Eve, (Genesis 3:15); Noah; or Abraham, (Gal. 3:13-29); or any other Old Testament saint; or any New Testament era soul whose sins are COVERED by the precious blood of Jesus— **that they, we, are** CHOSEN OF GOD... elect out of every nation... and now we are no longer known as Jews or heathens (Gentiles)! **AND as His Elect, His redeemed— we will ALL ultimately be found FOR ALL ETERNITY as the inhabitants of the NEW JERUSALEM, the Bride, the LAMB’S WIFE — Revelation 21-22.**

Additional note: Every child of God experiences tribulation during this life. (John 16:33) But Mark 13:19-27 speaks of a definite period of dire distress and short duration occurring immediately prior to Christ’s return— called ‘THE GREAT TRIBULATION!’ **BUT MANY SAY: ‘Christian, don’t worry. I am so happy— we will be raptured before that terrible Great Tribulation!’**

HOWEVER, no one in the New Testament gives a, “Don’t worry. I am happy to report that we won’t be here” promise!

INSTEAD, THE CLEAR WORD OF JESUS IS, “FEAR NONE OF THOSE

THINGS WHICH YOU WILL SUFFER... YOU SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION... *BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH!* (Rev. 2:10)

FURTHERMORE:

1. There will be redeemed folk on earth during the Great Tribulation. (Some refer to them as ‘tribulation saints’... some contend that they will only be JEWS who get saved)

2. REGARDLESS, they will not suffer the wrath of God any more than Noah did. Noah was affected by it but God’s wrath did not touch him. **Likewise**, it will be in the last of the last days!

3. However, **MAN’S PERSECUTION** will touch God’s redeemed— always has... since Cain killed Able! Always will... **UNTIL JESUS COMES!** Many will be martyred. This has always been the case!

4. “BUT ... DOESN’T JESUS LOVE US TOO MUCH TO LET US GO THROUGH SUCH?” The Holy Spirit moved the pen of the PERSECUTED TRIBULATION-EXPERIENCING APOSTLE JOHN, (Rev. 1:9) writing to persecuted TRIBULATION-EXPERIENCING saints (Rev. 1:9; 2:9; 2:10; 7:9-17) — *“Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood...”* (Revelation 1:5) **JESUS PROVED HIS LOVE FOR HIS SAINTS AT CALVARY!!**

BOTTOM LINE: INSTEAD OF HOPING FOR ‘ESCAPE’— WE SHOULD BE PREPARING OURSELVES and ONE ANOTHER TOWARD EMBRACING THE GREATEST HONOR THAT COULD EVER COME TO A REDEEMED SINNER— “O JESUS... IN LIGHT OF WHO YOU ARE... grant me grace to be FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH!

Moreover, let us hear and heed this: Phil. 1:27-29—

²⁷ “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **you stand**

fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ **For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,”**

QUESTION: Is Jesus worth dying for? Many do not think so! They choose the world today, they are ‘marked’ by the world today;

And IF they are present in the time of the ultimate fulfillment of Revelation 13— they will choose ‘SUBMISSION to the world system’ over loyalty to Christ! They will betray saints. I suspect that they will be lauded for their wise choice; **while foolish looking true followers of Jesus are slaughtered. BUT AGAIN... SUCH IS 2000 YEARS OF CHURCH HISTORY! EVEN TODAY, GENUINE CHRISTIANS LOOK LIKE FOOLS TO THE WORLD!**

However, Revelation, chapter 14 reveals the astounding reality that **the once persecuted and martyred saints WILL forever be REJOICING IN HEAVEN, while the worldly wise, (who chose physical food over Christ), will forever be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the LAMB!**

O DEAR SAINTS, until JESUS COMES BACK— **LET US Focus on Feeding, Cultivating, and Guarding LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST!** Such love for Jesus WILL OVERFLOW in love for and ministry to the saints; and OVERFLOW with gospel sharing to the lost; **and in BEING FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH!**

**** [page 3... 7. Moreover,** (although sincerely claimed by many), JESUS did not promise ‘pre-tribulation’ escape for His

disciples; nor did the Apostles. **

In this article... we have quoted Mark 13. There, Jesus does not give a 2 stage return nor does He promise escape from tribulation... or from the Great Tribulation. BUT WHAT ABOUT 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18?

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

[Comment: When Jesus returns, **He resurrects and He will bring with Him...** all “the dead in Christ”... All the redeemed of all ages who have died prior to the return of Christ.]

¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

[Comment: These verses say NOTHING about escaping tribulation or the Great Tribulation. RATHER: As Jesus has left heaven and is coming toward earth, (with all the above saints/the elect/the redeemed) — THEN, the saints, (who at that time are living on earth) shall be CAUGHT UP... and join with... ALL THE OTHERS... MEETING THEM and MEETING JESUS in the air... IN THE CLOUDS... to henceforth FOREVER be with the LORD! Obviously, these will be transformed to new resurrection bodies. THIS IS ALL GREAT COMFORT.

Note: These verses DO NOT SAY that Jesus immediately returned to heaven, to stay there for 3 or 7 years. There is nothing here that hints of nor demands a two staged return.

The simple and plain truth is this: Jesus is returning TO EARTH; and ON HIS WAY TO EARTH— He is coming BOTH with and FOR His Elect. Nothing hints that Jesus turns around and goes back to heaven. He is obviously on His way to earth... and as He is coming, He comes for and with all the redeemed.

Mark 13:24-27— ²⁴ “But in those days, **after that tribulation**, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds** with great power and glory. ²⁷ **And then** He will send His angels, and **gather together His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Grace to all! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

PS.... Search the Scriptures...

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!** (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Wendy’s Biscuits are available!)

***** Ladies Bible Study— Taking a SUMMER BREAK! IN THE MEANTIME— Go to www.southsidegallatin.org and CLICK on YouTube!**

SUNDAY SERVICES: June 6, 13, 20, 27:

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

Additional Sunday Events for JUNE 2021:

1. JUNE 6, Fellowship Meal, after morning worship service.

2. JUNE 13, 5:00pm-6:30 pm- Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

3. JUNE 20, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

4. JUNE 27, 5:00pm-6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP!

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! * Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR JUNE 6,

(OR simply to connect with our YouTube page, for a variety of messages) — GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by 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>