



PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to **MINISTER** to others! **Volume 47, No. 43, November 1, 2022** / 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!”***

WITHDRAW? OR ADVANCE WITH THE GOSPEL!?

There seem to be more and more warnings of approaching worldwide catastrophe. Events change day by day— earthquakes, floods, fires, volcanoes, tornadoes, wars and rumors of wars, economic meltdown, etc. Not surprising, with every new set of EVENTS, there is a new Chorus of, “Is this the beginning of the End? Is history out of control?”

If we are close to the End of time, what are Christians supposed to do? Do we need to focus on STOCKING UP ON SURVIVAL FOODS and SUPPLIES; and maybe also buying land in remote areas, so that when the chaos comes near we have a possible place of escape?

There is growing evidence of difficult, even dire days ahead. But what are we to do? Fear-mongering easily flourishes; and it seems to me that the same crowd that made MEGA-BUCKS from the threat of Y-2K way back in 1997-1999 are making another killing! **Note:** Biblically, there is nothing wrong with alertness and preparation, like the ant! What we are dealing with here is FOCUS and PURPOSE in the midst of times of trouble.

A look in the Word of God and at 2000 years of church history are revealing! Time and again there have been SEVERE HARD TIMES especially for believers. Time and time again believers have suffered torture, been killed, or they are even now in prison for their faith. MANY ARE THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS in the twenty first century!

THINK ON THIS: Whether we have a reprieve for another few years, OR for many more years; or whether things continue to disintegrate until half the

cities on earth lie in rubble, **it is essential for believers to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Body of Christ**, as opposed to the fear-mongering of the false prophets.

CONSIDER THIS RESPONSE: ***“It is hardly a time for believers to leave town and hide in the hills. This is our time of opportunity.”***

LET US HEAR JESUS: ***“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”*** **(Matthew 10:16)** Jesus deploys His army to the hot spots of the world, ARMED WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! I believe we can hear Him saying, “I send you not into hiding, but out where the trouble is!” **Presently, that ‘hot spot’ may be the ungodliness of your work-place or lost neighbors!**

BE ALL THESE THINGS AS THEY MAY— WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS IS IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE UNIVERSE! **Revelation 5:1— And I saw in the right hand of him who is seated on the throne a scroll written and on the back, sealed with seven seals!** The scroll is symbolic of Judgment Time. And the breaking of the seals marks the beginning of the End. When a seal is broken and the scroll begins to unravel, things happen on this earth that reveal heaven's judgment! MAY you be among those who have eyes to see!

“...and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ And no one in heaven or earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I wept that no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me,

“Weep not; lo, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb, standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. Rev 5:2-7

REALITY: "The restraining force, from apostolic days down to this moment, the Power holding back the destructive efforts of the kingdoms of this world is Jesus, the Lamb! HIS KINGDOM IS COMING AND HIS WILL **SHALL BE DONE** ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN! **"All authority has been given me in heaven and on earth."** IN THE MIDST, JESUS HAS BEEN AND IS AND WILL BE SAVING A NUMBERLESS MULTITUDE OUT OF EVERY KINDRED, TONGUE AND TRIBE.

So often, **for twenty centuries, Christ's redeemed have suffered in his name... WHILE IT SEEMS that the world just runs wild. BUT THE LAMB RULES AND OVER-RULES and the LAMB WILL BREAK THE SEALS!** ***"Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" And I saw, and behold, a white horse (white is not a symbol of good here) and its rider had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."*** (Revelation 6) *** White Horse: Delusion/Deception/Counterfiet

When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword. *** Red Horse: War

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I saw, and behold, a black horse, and its rider had a balance in his hand; and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; but do not harm oil and wine." *** Black Horse: Famine

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him; and they were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and

with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. ***
Pale Horse: Death/Desolation

The picture presented here is that everything that occurs now as the End approaches, whether it is the spreading of some new ideology, or a worldwide financial meltdown, or a devastating war, is under the control of things occurring at the headquarters of the universe. When, finally, the Lamb permits the prince of this world to have his destructive way, all hell breaks loose. And what follows will make every war and cataclysm of past generations look like a rose garden.

Now, there have always been sects inside the church, and heretical groups outside the church that have announced that the End has arrived. While false prophets and false Christs multiply, and hearts harden and turn cynical and cold, it is essential that committed disciples of Jesus have a clear vision of what the Spirit is saying to us now— about the hour in which we live today.

THE CALL IS NOT TO BE AN EXPERT on the details of the timing of prophetic events. The call is not to be a ‘prophecy hobbyist!’ The call is not to be filled with FEAR. The call is not to withdraw, run or seek to hide.

On the contrary, the Spirit of God through the Word of God is reminding us that the Lord Jesus stands above all the things that are happening as the Lamb who was slain, and who is worthy!

“And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; and they sang a new song saying, “Worthy art thou to take the scroll and open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation...” Rev 5:8-9

WE NEED TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE LAMB! He has not changed his attitude, or his nature. He hasn’t turned the world over to Satan in

disgust. The same mercy that took him to the cross will move him to start breaking the seals, sending this world on its turbulent journey through chaos to the final rest of God's fulfilled kingdom.

The Lord Jesus is right on schedule. He won't make a mistake. **The precious last book of the Bible is THE UNVEILING of JESUS CHRIST—and He is Supreme, He is Sufficient, and He is Sovereign!** "The Kingdom of God is coming. The kingdom of satan is falling. God has everything in His control!

THIS IS IMPORTANT: The Spirit of God by the Word of God is not telling us to withdraw. He is reminding us, on the contrary, that our task, the rougher things get, the hotter the fire burns, is to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus as the hope of all people—to call them to his Banquet Hall and to touch them with the healing of the GOSPEL as a foretaste of the coming glory.

"And they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my Name's sake. Then many will fall away and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

Because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:9-14

The gospel of the kingdom is the gospel of the Lamb. Jesus Christ crucified and risen— God's Incarnate Mercy. And this gospel is not PRIMARILY proclaimed from a distance by "gospel satellites," ... television or short-wave— **but by REAL people on the street level!** We are to spread this good news outside the church sanctuary, outside our Christian "inner circle", into the world. **Don't just send a missionary— be one!**

We go out into the world, and wait our time. We pray. We live God's mercy. When the right opportunity comes, we speak. And we will see results we've never dreamed of. The more difficult living

gets, the more dangerous life becomes, the more free, bold, joyful, glad, and authoritative will be our message.

The Spirit is not calling us to withdraw. On the contrary, He is telling us that we are **INVINCIBLE until our work is done!** We cannot be stopped until the job is finished.

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles." Matthew 10:16-18

There are countless people living on the earth right now who are going through all this— both the suffering and the power. People who are no different than we are.

"When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved." Matthew 10:19-22

Nowhere do we even have the hint of a suggestion that we are to run off into the woods and hide in a cave. We are to be out there in the world, living the gospel and proclaiming the gospel. If we are brought to trial, we'll be told what to say when the time comes. And if we find ourselves having to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lamb will be our comforter!

REALITY: A great cloud of witnesses shout to us: JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL IS WORTH DYING FOR!

REALITY: If I do not believe He is worth dying for— I won't live for Him today. Indeed, this fact alone explains the sorry condition rampart in churches today.

REAL CHRISTIANITY SAYS: We will be protected as we press on until our work is finished. And when our work is finished, let the bomb fall, let the bullet hit and may God be praised!

The Spirit of God is not calling us to crawl into a hole and withdraw. On the contrary, He is reminding us that the destination of our journey lies on the other side of the End, in the Kingdom of the Lamb.

Here we have no continuing city, but seek the city which is to come, and... what liberty and freedom this gives when our hearts are thus detached from this world! We are no longer weighed down by everything that goes wrong or by all the uncertainty that surrounds us. We are free to live with our eyes on the world beyond, and our feet on solid ground.

We live in houses, we drive cars, we have families, we love our children, we enjoy our food, and we rejoice in the sunshine and the blue sky. At the same time the Spirit of God floods us with the life of heaven and helps to detach us from the "treasures" on this side until it becomes clear that the only lasting treasure we have, waits for us in the world beyond.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in heaven that does not fail, where no thief approaches, and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes..." Luke 12:32-37

**WAIT! STOP! SELL POSSESSIONS????.... IF HE SAYS SO!
But until or unless He does— ENJOY THEM... don't be proud... don't trust in riches... DO GOOD... be RICH in good works!
 (Read: 1 Timothy 6:17-16)**

WE ARE IN THE LAST OF THE LAST DAYS, CORRECT, RIGHT?

The issue is not, when will this be? Tomorrow? Next week? 20 years from now? The issue is— are we about KINGDOM BUSINESS... until He comes?

Are we withdrawing and building our bridges of escape, **or are we** going out to where we are being sent?

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

May God help us to go out, and keep going out, and never stop until the end of time. (PORTIONS Edited from R.E. Bieber)

Let us be found faithful!! Grace to all! James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20, 37 / 2022

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

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- 1. NOVEMBER 6 - Fellowship/Covered-Dish meal... after morning worship**
- 2. NOVEMBER 13 - Training Faithful Men... 5pm**
- 3. NOVEMBER 20 - Home Groups, various times**
- 4. NOVEMBER 27 - EVENING SERVICE** (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service... and, this month, **James Poteete** is scheduled to preach.)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER and JANUARY— **NOTE DIFFERENCES:**

- 1. December 4 & 11—regular schedules**
- 2. December 18—regular MORNING SERVICE, with the LORD'S SUPPER; and....**

2b. DECEMBER 18, 5PM... Adam, Bradley, Choir, and others will lead us in a SPECIAL TIME of SONGS and SCRIPTURES ... IN GRATITUDE FOR JESUS, THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT!

3. DECEMBER 25... 10:45 WORSHIP SERVICE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER. (No. S.S. or evening service)

JANUARY 2023—

[1] January 1, Sunday School and Worship Service, **only.**

[2] January 8, Sunday School and Worship Service, FELLOWSHIP MEAL;

[3] January 15, Sunday School and Worship Service, and FAITHFUL MEN, 5PM;

[4] January 22, Sunday School and Worship Service, and LORD'S SUPPER; HOME GROUPS!

[5] January 29, (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service... and, this month, **Jim Barnhouse** is scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)
[STUDYS IN JEREMIAH]

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, NOVEMBER 8, @ 11:00 AM... (Read Matthew 11:28-30)**

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning! ** Adult Prayer Service ** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]

***** 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... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are 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!

[A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! | PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER. The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment: [COVID Treatment - Truth for Health](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)

Foundation <https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>