



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 48, December 1 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / 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. It 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***

[Many Christians, pastors included, say that they do not understand The Revelation or that it fills them with fear. This is TRAGIC because Jesus says, ***"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. At that point he had never read a commentary on the Revelation. He had simply read the Revelation straight through over 100 times. When asked about the last book of the Bible, with a big smile he proclaimed: ***"MOST SIMPLIST BOOK! JUST LOOK FOR JESUS!"*** He was/is right! Thus, the purpose of this article is to simply help you LOOK FOR JESUS as He is gloriously UNVEILED!

JESUS— Sovereign, Supreme, Sufficient!

"Where Christ is most precious— there sin is exceedingly sinful; and self is humbled and loathed!" (William Mason) **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)

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... (Representing the entirety of the LORD'S church until He comes back). It was revealed to the Apostle John who identified himself as the 'brother and companion in tribulation' of those in the churches. (Rev. 1:9) Wonderfully we see in the Revelation 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 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 were startled and wondered, "Is he a spy?" He proved his credentials and 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 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). There is growing PERSECUTION of Bible-believing Christians around the world. When God wanted to encourage JOHN and the first century Church— **HE gave the Unveiling of JESUS!** **THIS BOOK IS VERY MUCH 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 BEING AN OVERCOMER 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: 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.

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 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!

HOW CAN WE STAY TRUE TO THE FAITH WHEN WE HAVE friends turning their backs on Christ? BEHOLD Jesus unveiling critical reality— 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 already here is the hearts of the redeemed.

BY THE WAY: BEWARE, BE DESCERNING OF 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 LORD; AND He will celebrate union with His bride... AND BEHOLD the vengeance of Jesus (Rev. 19:11-21) conquering the 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 comprised of THE REDEEMED OF ALL AGES, Rev. 21:10-14.

Revelation 22 concludes with

1. A GLORIOUS ETERNITY FOR THE REDEEMED, 22: 3-5
2. AN EXHORTATION TO KEEP THE SAYING OF THIS PROPHECY, 22:7
3. GLORIOUS REMINDERS, 22:13-14
4. **The HOLY SPIRIT'S FINAL CALL, 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 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!

O LET US BEHOLD Jesus! Amen. Hallelujah! James Bell

The Revelation: JESUS is Sovereign, Supreme, and Sufficient!

I. THE PRESENT SOVEREIGNTY OF JESUS IN HEAVEN, Chapters 1-5. TODAY! JESUS Christ is in Heaven working through His redeemed on earth: JESUS Christ is risen, glorified and in the midst of His churches (chapter 1) JESUS Christ- commanding, correcting and instructing His church, (chapters 2-3). BEHOLD The Throne of Deity and the Occupation of Heaven, namely, WORSHIP (chapter 4) BEHOLD JESUS Christ in the Midst of the Throne of the Universe- The LION as the LAMB RULES! (chapter 5)

II. THE COMING SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LAMB ON EARTH, Chapters 6-19. TODAY! JESUS CHRIST is in Heaven ruling and over-ruling the events of kings and kingdoms, moving all things toward the day of His return to earth! All things are moving toward JESUS Christ's enthronement on earth for His millennial reign: (11:15; 17-18; 19:6)

TODAY, FROM HEAVEN, JESUS CHRIST reigns (10:6); He is preparing to bring Babylon and satan and all demonic forces DOWN! He rules (19:15); He restrains (20:1-3); And the day is coming when He rewards - and those of the first resurrection reign with Him (20:4-6).

III. THE ETERNAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ENTHRONEMENT OF THE LAMB ON THE "NEW EARTH", Chapters 20-22. TODAY AND FOREVER: Jesus is Lord! Yet He will always remain the Lamb! His Calvary love will never, never be forgotten! 1. Revelation 20 - Satan bound, millennium and judgment! 2. Revelation 21-22 - New heaven and New Earth! BEHOLD JESUS, THE LAMB of GOD! COME LORD JESUS!

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS:

6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT, planned for early 2016

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2015:

Sundays, December 6 and 13:

DECEMBER 6,13— 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship

Noon Covered Dish Meal // 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service

DECEMBER 13: DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE OF DECEMBER 13, PRIOR TO A MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD; *** **THE CHOIR WILL LEAD US IN SPECIAL SONGS/HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE AS TO THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Sunday, December 20:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship— We will lift up our hearts and voices in PRAISE and THANKSGIVING as to the WONDER OF CHRIST COMING TO EARTH for sinners; the WORD OF GOD will be preached; **and we shall come to the LORD'S TABLE!**

(**No meal or** afternoon service... **IF there are** 'Home Groups' meeting in December... the leaders will let you know)

SUNDAY, December 27:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship (No meal or afternoon service)

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!* For the 2015-2016 school term we are offering **Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.*****

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>