



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 30, July 28, 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!”***

UNTIL JESUS COMES BACK!

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! It was said, “He who never saw Herod’s Temple, has never in his life seen a beautiful building.” 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 are destined to be ‘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, there is a DEEPENING DECLINE** into 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 Christ – 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!

NOTE: IMPORTANT WORDS for the disciple of Jesus in these verses are these: **“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— NOTE again: 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. Christians 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!]

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 Epihanes 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 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)

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.*

THE SEQUENCE JESUS GIVES as to the Second Coming of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28)

- 1.** Apocalyptic disturbances in the heavens (v. 24-25)
- 2.** Arrival of the Son of man as the deliverer (v. 26)

3. Assembling of the scattered elect (v. 27).

THE ELECT: In addition to ‘elect’ references in Mark 13, Matthew 24, and Luke 18, 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 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. Yes, many believe that the ‘church’ will not be on earth in the last of the last days. Be that as it may, neither Mark 13, Matthew 24, nor Luke 21... set forth any sort of ‘coming’ of Jesus in two stages, separated by 3 or 7 years.

This much is certain: 1. There will be saved folk here. (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! Years back a dear lady came to me... WEEPING, “Pastor, you were talking about all of the tribulation and persecution that Christians may experience... **I thought we would be raptured before all that... DOESN'T JESUS LOVE US TOO MUCH TO LET US GO THROUGH SUCH?”**

As a young Christian... she was unaware of Church history and Biblical history, which show that, indeed, the BLOOD of the martyrs has been the seed of the church, again and again. **BUT MOST OF ALL, she was confused as to how God proves His love for His redeemed!**

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 YOU AT CALVARY!!**

QUESTION: Is Jesus worth dying for? Many do not think so!

1. 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 ‘food, buying and selling’ over loyalty to Christ!

2. 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! TODAY, GENUINE CHRISTIANS LOOK LIKE FOOLS TO THE WORLD!

3. However, Revelation, chapter 14 reveals the astounding reality that **the once persecuted and martyred saints are now and forever 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!**

THEREFORE, ONE THING ABOVE ALL OTHERS 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!

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 4, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!**

(2 Timothy 1:5, Lois and Eunice!)

SUNDAYS— August 2, 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 2, Fellowship Meal, after morning worship service.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm— ** Adult Prayer Service

***** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service ** Youth Bible Study***

***** 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>