

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

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 46, No. 39, September 28, 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!"***

CHRISTIAN! Be not SURPRISED or OFFENDED!

LET NO CHRISTIAN be SURPRISED or OFFENDED— *"Unto you it is given (as a free gift) in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake!"*

LET NO CHRISTIAN be SURPRISED or OFFENDED— 2 Timothy 3:12, reminds us, *"... all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*

JESUS WARNS of those who, (when tribulation or persecution comes) — GET OFFENDED, REPELLED, THEY GIVE UP, THEY RECAANT THE FAITH! (Matt. 13:20-21)

REALITY: BIBLICAL HISTORY reveals that **from Cain's slaughter of Abel until the second coming of Jesus Christ—** God's redeemed people have been, are, and will be subject to all manner of persecution.

Hebrews 12:32-40, unveils that throughout history, the righteous have been persecuted— they have had trial of cruel mocking, scourging, and imprisonment. They have been stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword; they wandered in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in dens and in caves of the earth. **MANY** have died, at the hands of those for whose salvation they labored and prayed!

LET NO CHRISTIAN be SURPRISED or OFFENDED— Jesus **PLAINLY told His disciples that** the time would come when those who kill them

would be so filled with rage and blindness that they would believe they were doing God service! (Matthew 10:21-39; John 16:1-3)— **INDEED, those who hate Christ Jesus will not love those who would lay down their lives for the Son of God!**

BUT IN AMERICA, the above CLEAR Scriptures DO NOT REGISTER WITH US! MULTITUDES ‘SLIDE OVER THEM’ and take refuge in the HOPE that we will escape by means of what is called the pre-tribulation rapture!

HOW SO? By simply CONSIGNING all of the ‘bad’ persecution and martyrdom verses to ‘Great Tribulation’ events, (which it is believed), take place AFTER THE ‘RAPTURE!’

“SURE, all those really ‘bad things’ will happen to ‘Tribulation Saints’... but not to us!”

THEREFORE, FEW GIVE THOUGHT to getting PREPARED, BEING prepared— in the event that we, (like millions of others WHO are already being called!), are called to BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH!” ... REGARDLESS of the timing of end time events!

WAKE UP CALL:

Go to Iran, N. Korea, Afghanistan, Nigeria, etc, etc ... and tell them to cheer up— BECAUSE FOR 21st century Christians, the pre-tribulation rapture is coming before the really bad stuff hits the fan!

REALITY: That teaching only sells well in nations and times where there are no horrors like what Christians ARE RIGHT NOW FACING in other nations.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, there is no promise of escape from suffering for the GOSPEL. INSTEAD, there is rejoicing in those who, “had hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:26)

NOTE: MANY are not called upon to become literal martyrs. ***Christian martyrs are Christian witnesses who LIVE and GIVE the gospel of Christ; and for such testimony they are killed. NO ONE SHOULD EVER SEEK TO BECOME A MARTYR!***

But Every True Christian should live with the ‘Heart a Martyr!’ In other words, a real child of God is called to yield his/her life to follow Christ, rather than be false to his/her profession and treasonable to Christ! (Luke 14:26-27, 33).

The New Testament Gospels help us to Anticipate Persecution

At first Peter could not comprehend that suffering and death for Jesus was a part of the divine plan (Matthew 16:16-22). But as we know Jesus cruelly suffered, bled, and died. **Jesus often spoke to His disciples of both the blessedness of persecution and of the absolute certainty of it:** Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; 16:1-4; 16:33.

John’s Gospel reveals at least three reasons why true Disciples of Jesus are persecuted: 1. We do not belong to the present world-system. 2. We have been chosen out of this world-system by Christ. 3. The world’s hatred of believers is really an expression of their hatred of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Acts gives Historical Accounts of Persecution

Please read Acts, marking all references to persecution. Take special note of the fact that persecution **was received with “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus’ name,”** (Acts 5:41). **Also, look for the following four [4] forms of persecution:**

1. Intense Verbal Abuse: In Acts, Christians were interrogated, commanded to stop preaching in the name of Jesus, and threatened. Stephen was maligned and misrepresented by false witnesses; and stoned. (Acts 4:3-30; Acts 6:9-14)

2. Physical Violence: Acts 5:40; 7:54-60; 8:3; 9:1; 26:10-11, these and other verses record that beatings, stonings, and prisons were the lot of early Christians.

3. Political Power: Acts 13:50; 16:19-20, and Acts 18 show God’s saints facing political power as the enemies of Christ sought to silence the saints.

4. Loss of Civil Rights: Acts 16— after a mock trial, Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned. **Throughout the centuries,** many of God’s Saints have faced and now face scorn, violent verbal abuse, inquisitions, fines,

prisons, church buildings locked up, freedoms restricted, physical and psychological tortures, ridicule, rejection, etc. **Not every country has the same types of persecution... But even in America a saint cannot live a godly Christian life without facing ridicule, scorn, slander, rejection, etc.**

(SADLY, being masters at compromise we often avoid suffering for Jesus' sake!)

The Epistles: give us a True Analysis of Persecution

THANKFULLY here is what persecution CANNOT accomplish: (1) Persecution cannot destroy the spirit of a Saint (2 Timothy 4:16-18). **(2)** Persecution cannot stop the progress of the Gospel (Philippians 1:12-18; Ephesians 6:20; Acts 16:19-34). **(3)** Persecution cannot separate us from the precious love of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:35-37).

SOME OF what persecution CAN accomplish: (1) Persecution provides assurance that we are saved (Phil 1:29; 2 Tim 3:12; John 15:19-20) **(2) Persecution announces** God's judgment that will come on those who oppose the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:4-6). **(3) Persecution sharpens** our vision of heavenly realities (Heb 10:32-34). **(4) Persecution purifies** our faith (1 Peter 1:7). **(5) Persecution brings** a sense of blessedness (1 Peter 3:14; 4:13-14). **(6) Persecution builds up** a deepening spirit of love and remembrance of Saints in other places (Hebrews 13:3). **(7) Persecution separates** the pretenders out of the flock of God's true sheep (Matt. 13:20-21).

The Book of Revelation: the Age of Persecution

The books of Thessalonians, Peter, and the Revelation were written to encourage and give direction to persecuted Christians. Tragically, many Americans turn to these same books and focus on HOPED FOR ESCAPE FROM tribulation or persecution.

REALITY: Be they those who have lived during the last 2000 years of Church History, or in Islamic countries today, or in America tomorrow, or in the climatic last years before the return of Jesus Christ— **ALL who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb are subject to the possibility of persecution, tribulation, and/or death.**

HOWEVER, NONE of the **REDEEMED**, (in the past, now, or in the future), **WILL** suffer God's wrath. (The redeemed have suffered, are suffering, and will suffer satan's and man's wrath— but not God's wrath.)

MOREOVER: There is no Biblical revelation that men, satan, and/or demons will be able to **do anything any more destructive to 'great tribulation saints'** than they have always done; and/or that they presently do in some countries to Christians. **AGAIN:** Every disciple of Jesus is a candidate for suffering, persecution, and even martyrdom!

THEREFORE: Let us be prepared to courageously stand for the faith; and if called upon in the hour of any Christian's highest privilege... THAT WE — "Be thou faithful unto death...!" (Revelation 2:10).

GODLY EXAMPLES: Suffering for the Gospel's Sake

1. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, dying, offered two prayers. One was for himself: **"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."** The other was for his foes: **"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."**

2. The Apostle Paul said: "The Holy Ghost witnesses in every city, saying that bonds and imprisonments await me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear to myself, so that I might finish my course with joy."

3. TESTIMONIES from saints, unknown to us:

a. "Do they cast us out of the city? They cannot cast us out of that which is in the heavens. The only thing we have really to be afraid of is fearing anything more than God!"

b. "Sire, it belongs truly to God's church rather to suffer blows than to strike them; but let it be your pleasure to remember that the church is an anvil which hath worn out many a hammer."

c. "The church has sometimes been brought so low and obscure a point that if you can follow her in history it is by the track of her blood; and if you would see her, it is by the light of those fires in which her martyrs have been burnt."

d. “To banish, imprison, plunder, starve, hang, and burn men for religion is not the Gospel of Christ, but the gospel of the devil.”

“Where persecution begins, Christianity ends. Christ never used anything like force or violence, except once; and that was to drive bad men out of the temple, and not to drive them in!”

e. “Persecution often does in this life what the last day will do completely—separate the wheat from the tares!”

JESUS SAYS: “You shall have tribulation: but be faithful unto death. For though you may be killed, I will give you the crown of life! Be not afraid says our Lord, my help is nigh! Indeed! Rejoice!” (Revelation 2:2:10-11)

LET US NEVER FORGET: when we who are alive in Christ are delivered unto death for Jesus sake, the resurrection life of Christ is mightily manifest! (2 Cor. 4:7-12).

Preparation— Watchwords to confess... NOW:

1. Every time difficulties and impossible situations arise now, I will believe in the omnipotence of God. I will not give place to worry, but completely trust in the Father’s tender, loving care and means to help. Then... if, or when... persecution breaks out, I shall be ‘practiced in faith.’

2. Now I will bear my small bodily ailments (pain, weakness, and fatigue) **in faith in** the power of Jesus’ blood that sustains me and renews my strength. Thus, I shall have practice for the future when the physical suffering may be far greater.

3. Every time I am faced with hardship and meaninglessness, I will surrender my will, and when I am chastened, I will humble myself even more beneath the mighty hand of God.

4. I will look to Jesus ever anew, turning to Him with all my heart. And as I behold the Man of Sorrows, who was full of grief and affliction, a willingness to suffer for His sake is implanted in my soul. I will look to Him, the mighty Victor, who has vanquished Satan and sin.

5. In faith I will surrender to JESUS in my daily battle against my spirit of criticism, pride, stinginess, envy, self-will, egoism, anger, the desires of the flesh, and bondage to people and things. Then such sin will be less able to weaken me in the future; and EVEN if I should be imprisoned for Christ, I can be a witness for Jesus to others, by radiating His love and peace.

6. I will bear every hardship, great or small, out of love for Jesus, so that if or when I have to undergo pain or torment in persecution, my natural reaction will be, **“I will bear it for Your sake, Jesus!”**

7. LORD JESUS, by grace I will live in close fellowship with YOU and fellow saints of a local Bible-believing church, conversing with YOU at all times, and SEEKING to DAILY CULTIVATE LOVE FOR YOU, LORD JESUS— so that love, which is the strongest power of all, will give me the strength to bear the suffering in the time of persecution.

[AND... Not just the persecution of the future which might or might not come to me— but the persecution that comes today to all who live Godly in Christ Jesus!]

8. I will lead a life of prayer now, so that I shall be better able to pray later. Prayer will be my deliverance in times of loneliness, temptation, suffering, torment, and when I am forsaken.

9. Now, I will fight resolutely against my fear of others and my desire to win their favor, love, respect, and approval, so that I can overcome cowardice. I commit myself to making an uncompromising stand for the Lord. I want to seek only God’s approval in all matters now so that later during persecution, I shall be willing to pay the price.

10. I will DO GOOD NOW to those who hurt me and treat me unjustly by blessing them and showing them love in thought, word, and deed. Then later I shall be able to meet my persecutors the right way, not judging them, but humbled because of my own sin and meek like a lamb, full of mercy towards them.

11. Every time I am at a loss as to what to say in some situation or conversation, I will trust the Holy Spirit implicitly to guide me

and give me His words, now— which will help prepare me for future trials and cross-examinations.

12. Today I will REJOICE in confident hope of ETERNITY in heaven with JESUS; and abide in this hope, so that during persecution I can rejoice, saying, **“Suffering will come to an end; and everlasting glory will follow!”**

13. TODAY, WITH NO CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF, I EMBRACE THE GIFT: “Unto you it is given (as a free gift) in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake!” (Phil 1:29)

[AS usual, a variety of sources used in developing the article.]

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00 AM, 10/2/21 — Men’s Bible Study: THE BOOK OF JOB, Chapter 10!** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee’s Biscuits are available!*)

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study! OCT. 12 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER: 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children’s classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

OCTOBER 3 @ NOON... Covered Dish FELLOWSHIP Meal

OCTOBER 10 @ 5:00 PM, FAITHFUL MEN, 1689 Confession of Faith

OCTOBER 17 ... LORD’S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service! // NO HOME GROUPS in October!

INSTEAD... 10/17/21... WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY WITH BOBBY & LINNET GUPTA, from Hindustan Bible Institute, Chennai, India. They will meet with Sunday School Classes; BOBBY will preach during the 10:45AM service; and they will give a MISSIONARY REPORT at the 5:00pm service.

OCTOBER 24, 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium! A variety of singing/praise! PREACHING: James Poteete!

OCTOBER 31! ... The world celebrates Halloween. [NO EVENING SERVICES at the church building] LET US CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTED, RETURNING LORD JESUS CHRIST! BUILD UP SAINTS! EVANGELIZE THE LOST!

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 back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

***** 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>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— INORDER 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!]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE do not require. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed. DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE!

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. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! CLICK => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/>

Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee. BRIEF. POWERFUL: → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment ... OFFERS a wealth of resources...

[COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)

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