

**GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS!** – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

## **1 27 26 V1n38- BEWARE OF COWARDLY FEAR!**

**SURPRISING!? THE FEARFUL [The COWARDLY!] — ARE First in the Roll Call of those who will be in the Lake of Fire!**

**REVELATION 21:8 -- “But the fearful, [cowardly]** and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (KJV)

**I. THIS ARTICLE IS a little ‘unique’ in that it is EDITED FROM written communication I had, (many years past), with a brother in Christ.** [I no longer have the original communication, nor do I remember who he was! Regardless, what follows sets forth important Bible truth for us today.]

### **HE WROTE:**

“I want to ask you to help me with discernment about a passage I hope to preach / teach/ share about soon— **Revelation 21:1-8.**

As I have studied, I have been GLORYING IN the grand good news of the first 7 verses!

**However, VERSE 8** has just overwhelmed me the past few days — **“But the FEARFUL ... or the cowardly ...”** The unbelievers in

the passage are those, I assume, who do not, (did not), believe in Christ Jesus. The rest of the sins mentioned are self-explanatory and I understand these to be people who commit these sins habitually and continually, unrepentant, etc. - as [like] those mentioned in Romans 1.

**But the FEARFUL, the cowardly in verse 8, just grabbed me! Who were they, who are they?**

I have considered the historical setting as perhaps being during Nero's days. I understand that severe persecution has occurred throughout the ages. But I have pondered, meditated, prayed, and agonized over '*these cowards who are cast out!*'

### **RESPONSE:**

So, we start from the reality that TRUE DISCIPLES can certainly manifest a spirit of timidity or fearfulness or cowardice. For this reason, we are often counseled in the Word of God to, '**FEAR NOT!**' ... That exhortation would be meaningless if it was not a genuine struggle for true believers.

**ONE of the realities** of saving faith is that of '*getting up one more time than we fall!*' YES, sin easily besets us and deceives us; but sin SHALL NOT have dominion over the believer! That's the Word of God: Hebrews 1 2:1; 3:13; Romans 6:14!

IN CONTRAST, the FEARFUL of Revelation 21:8 are people who, while on earth, were **RULED BY GIANT FEAR — namely the FEAR OF MAN** which brings a snare!

### **HE WROTE:**

In Revelation 21:8, I have begun to think that **these cowards** mentioned were **professing Christians** who fully understood the Faith, were 'members of the church' but they denied Jesus and **recanted their faith when put to the test!** (From Nero and other Emperors of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century history has recorded horrific persecutions that came upon the church of that era.)

What has frightened me is the thought that these *cowards WERE/are also* 'professing Christians'... of all eras ... who falter when put to the test; and not necessarily only in the face of death, imprisonment, etc. ... but also of being *afraid* of ridicule and rejection because of following Christ and forsaking all if He requires it! (See, Matthew 10, Luke 9:57-62)

## **RESPONSE:**

Indeed, according to Jesus there are MANY who could be called 'professing Christians' **but who in reality were never 'planted' by God and will be shown to be tares and not wheat:** Matthew 7:21-27; 13:24-50; 15:8-14.

**IMPORTANT QUESTION: How much like a genuine Christian can a false Christian look?** Jesus told of 10 virgins. Not 5, but 10 virgins; and they were all waiting for the second coming! — And yet, only 5 were ready. **MOREOVER**, who of us would have guessed that one of the 12, was not who he appeared to be? **MOREOVER**, those in Matthew 7 preached and apparently did wonderful works in the name of Jesus. **AND JESUS IS VERY PLAIN:** They did not have salvation only to lose it — **Jesus said, 'I never knew you!'**

**So, this is no small problem! Thus, your concern and evaluation is on target and needed!**

### **HE WROTE:**

I am sure that what caused me to get focused on Revelation 21:8, is the reality of a family member living far from God. This then led me to begin to think of several others in the same light— all of them professing Christians, Baptized, members of churches, etc. But, none of them seemingly growing in Christ; but instead growing in worldliness and becoming more and more materialistic.

**ALONG WITH ALL THIS, I woke up one night with the scene at Matt 25:31-46**, clearly on my mind! There were people lined up being led away with the 'goats' ... AND although there were no clear faces among them— *I had the sense that I did know them.*

This was months ago ... and, I've have been able to speak with one of them about their lifestyle and inquiring about the state of their soul. His response was not pretty.

THUS, you can see how these thoughts and situations would lead me to have a special concern as to Revelation 21:8!

### **RESPONSE:**

As to the first of your paragraphs— while Jesus will lose none of His sheep, I believe every genuine Christian should have a 'healthy fear' of carnal cowardice. In reality, the more we maintain and develop a 'holy fear' of God and love for God — the less likely we will be to yield to carnal fears. And that, of course, is one of the

grand blessings of regular meditation upon the REVELATION, the UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST!

**BECAUSE the last book of the Bible reminds the persecuted, suffering Christian that — YOU ARE LOVED: Revelation 1:5! And that Jesus is Sovereign, Supreme, and Sufficient: Revelation 1-22!** And that those who lose their lives for Christ's sake — WIN! ... and WIN for all eternity: Revelation 13-15; 19-22!!

**AS TO YOUR NEXT TWO PARAGRAPHS, YES,** there is valid reason to be concerned for the spiritual well-being of multitudes who have made professions of faith but who lack signs of life in Christ! **The sheep of Jesus have very clear characteristics: John 10:27-29.**

MOREOVER, the sheep belonging to Jesus, when insisting upon straying will experience chastening: Hebrews 12:1-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. IMPORTANT: Galatians 2:20 and 6:14 are not just good and needed confessions for Paul!

## **HE WROTE:**

I realize there are several lists of those who will not 'inherit the Kingdom of God' set forth in the New Testament, all fairly similar—**but only in the Revelation passage is the FEARFUL /coward mentioned.** IT SEEMS to me to be speaking of a professing Christian, who is so 'worldly' as to be indistinguishable from the common masses of unbelievers! He fits right in ... but he is deeply FEARFUL of disappointing the masses... I'll end now, thank you for taking time to read this.

## **RESPONSE:**

Again, I believe you are on target. However, my main concern for you, for me, and other Christians is— that we be so rooted and grounded IN CHRIST, that we consistently win over GIANT FEAR!

## **THUS, LET US MEDITATE UPON THE FOLLOWING:**

### **CHRISTIAN— YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE!**

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s!” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**TO ALL WHO ARE IN CHRIST:** You and I are tempted on every hand and in many different ways **to feed the flesh, to bow to the world in FEAR of them; and/or in fear of** denying the flesh and/or the devil. **But GOD tells us: We are not our own! We are bought with a price! “Look you back to the day when you were bought,** when you were bondslaves to your sins, when you were under the just sentence of divine justice, when it was inevitable that God should punish your transgressions! **REMEMBER,** how the Son of God became your substitute, how He bared His back to the lash that should have fallen upon you, and laid His soul beneath the sword which should have quenched its fury in your blood.” (C. H. Spurgeon)

**\*\*\* BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! CHRISTIAN, you were redeemed ... “with the precious blood of Christ ...” (1**

Peter 1:18) Spurgeon preached,

“That the blood of Christ was shed to buy our souls from death and hell is a wonder of compassion which ... ought to overwhelm us with adoring love for Christ”

**Behold the suffering Lamb of God!** Open the pages of Scripture and meditate deeply of Christ at Gethsemane and Golgotha. **BOUGHT WITH A PRICE!** Let any right-thinking Christian sit down and write his or her biography and all would agree ... and we MUST CONFESS, THAT,

**\*\*\* “WITHOUT QUESTION THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT in all of my PERSONAL PAST is that I have been bought by the blood of Jesus!”** Thus, let all saints confess: I am not my own. I belong to Jesus! My past is forgiven! The blinding, binding, grinding power of sin and satan is broken. Sin’s weights are lifted!

I am set free **from the futility of performance-based living**, of trying to be good enough to merit heaven. I am resting in the total sufficiency of Jesus, in His precious blood, in His goodness and in His merit.

**\*\*\*BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! The MOST SIGNIFICANT REALITY in all of my experiences IN MY PERSONAL PRESENT is that I am IN CHRIST and CHRIST IS IN ME;** and that I am a Minister of Reconciliation, an Ambassador for Christ, and On Mission with God! (1 Cor 3:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:19-20) I am forgiven (Past! Present! Future!) and I am resting in Christ. I am now free to be and become all that Christ intends today! I no longer search or strive for significance. For IN CHRIST I have supreme significance— **I am a Child of God!**

**\*\*\* BOUGHT WITH A PRICE!** “The most significant thing about **MY PERSONAL FUTURE** is that I will continue to experience the ongoing cleansing power of the blood of Christ; and I will rule and reign with Christ for all eternity.” (Rev. 5:9-10; 7:9-12; 12:11)

Moreover, I am free from any obligation to fear death or the future. Nothing nor no one can separate me from the love of God in Christ. **Whether I live or whether I die, I am the LORD’S! As I walk with Him, being on Mission with him, I am invincible until He calls me home!**

**CHRISTIAN! YOU ARE HIS TEMPLE!** “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16) “... You are the temple of the living God...” (2 Cor. 6:16)

**YES, CHILD OF GOD, YOU ARE HIS HOLY TEMPLE ON EARTH!** *You, dear local assembly of saints are His Holy Temple! BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! Your Body is the Dwelling Place of the Holy Spirit. Your Body is His Temple. You Are Not Your Own!* Therefore, Glorify God in Your Body and in Your Spirit, Which Belong Exclusively To GOD!

Grace to all in Christ!

James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICES: FEBRUARY, 2026: 1, 8, 15, 22**



[1] **Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

[2] **WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

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**NOON Covered Dish, Fellowship Meal: DUE TO PRESENT WEATHER... THIS MEAL, FOR FEBRUARY, IS MOVED TO SECOND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8!**

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**2/15 - LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE**

**2/22 – 5:00pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Evening Worship**

**EVERY SATURDAY\*\*\* 8:00 AM,** — Men's Bible Study! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!) **January 31 / Romans 5:12-21**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, 2/3/26 @ 11:00 AM – Read Acts 3**

**\*\*\*TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am**

***Young Adults ... Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!***

***WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm,***

***MEN'S Prayer Service // YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE***

**LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD by MAIL or by ONLINE:**

**BY MAIL** (checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO:  
Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 /

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

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