

[This newsletter is LONG! There is much NEEDED FOOD for the soul of every Christian! PLEASE READ and prayerfully STUDY! PSALM 106, and other O.T. Scriptures were written and PRESERVED—especially for us!!]

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

6 30 26 V2n9 CONSEQUENCES of SIN and the TRIUMPH of MERCY! Psalm 106:1-48 / 1 Cor. 10:1-14

PSALM 106! In ONLY 48 verses we are given a HISTORY of (1) Israel's sinning; (2) some of the consequences of their sinning; (3) and breaking through all this DARKNESS is the prevailing long suffering and MERCIES of God toward His people. **BUT WAIT! That was many HUNDREDS of years ago. That's no concern of ours!!**

STOP! Here's why WE should have keen interest in PSALM 106 and the entire Old Testament: (1) Above all else, the Old Testament SPEAKS OF JESUS: Luke 24:27, 44ff; (2) All Scripture is PROFITABLE for teaching and instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; (3) Scripture was written to give COMFORT and HOPE to all those who are IN CHRIST: Romans 15:4; and, (4) Indeed, **OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE WAS ESPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR CHRISTIANS living in these LAST DAYS:** 1 Cor. 10: 1-14 ...

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the

sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. **But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**"

[NOTE CAREFULLY: The Old Testament Believers rebelled against Christ/against God— and for this they were severely chastened! **MOREOVER:** The Holy Spirit has recorded all of this ancient history to set WARNINGS before us today!]

6 **"Now these things were our examples,** to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. **7** Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. **8** Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. **9** Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. **10** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."

11 *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples/illustrations: and they are written for our admonition [for our benefit as a warning!], upon whom the ends of the world are come. **12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a*

way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.”

NOW: PSALM 106, the Book of Judges, and many of the Prophets record the repeated cycles of turning to sin; of experiencing slavery and chastening; of cries of repentance to God; and of God extending mercy, again and again— and all of this was written **ESPECIALLY** for today’s Christian!

IMPORTANT QUESTION:

Because there is such a SIN PROBLEM with both the Old and New Testament saints, we ask: **CAN A GENUINELY SAVED PERSON GET “UNSAVED?”** Notice the strong language of **Psalm 106:40**, *“Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.”* **Israel had broken their fellowship with God to the point that God CHASTENED THEM! HOWEVER, GOD never forsook them! Notice verse 45, “And He remembered for them His covenant.”**

NEW TESTAMENT salvation is also a matter of covenant: Sinners are brought into covenant with God through JESUS CHRIST by grace, through faith in Christ alone!

Nevertheless, many seem quite confused as to who is and as to who is not a genuine Christian! **SO, WHO IS THE CHRISTIAN and how does this question relate to the problem of sin?**

A critical aspect of the answer to that all important question is clearly stated by Jesus as He prayed to His Father, as recorded in **John 17: [EMPHASIS ADDED]**

*“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify Thee: **As Thou [GOD THE FATHER] hast GIVEN Him [JESUS] power over all flesh, that He [JESUS] should GIVE eternal life to as many as Thou [GOD THE FATHER] hast GIVEN Him, [JESUS].**”*

GLORIOUS REALITY:

A Christian is one who has been **given by the Father to the Son**. JESUS has been given POWER over ALL flesh. **JESUS gives eternal life TO AS MANY AS the Father has GIVEN JESUS!** **This is amazing MERCY and GRACE!**

Jesus came into a world of hell-bound, hell-deserving sinners— ALL OF THEM... ALL OF US! He CAME to seek and to save the lost ... ultimately SAVING a NUMBERLESS MULTITUDE— all given to Him by His Father! **IN JOHN 17, The theme of the Father’s Giving continues, in verse 6:**

“I [JESUS!] have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou GAVEST Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou GAVEST them Me; and they have kept Thy Word ... 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast GIVEN Me; for they are Thine.... 11 ... Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast GIVEN Me, that they may be one, as We are....12... those that Thou GAVEST Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.... 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; ... 24 Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast GIVEN Me, be with Me where I am; that they

may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.” **SO CLEARLY, the real Christian is a gift from God the Father to Jesus the Son, who GIVES ETERNAL LIFE to all those given to Him by His Father. And clearly NONE WILL BE LOST other than Judas.**

AMAZING:

1. Jesus is loved by the Father **from before** the foundation of the world! (John 17:24)
2. Saints are CHOSEN IN CHRIST **before** the foundation of the world! (Eph. 1:4)
3. The power of God has saved us according to HIS OWN PURPOSE and grace... given us in Christ Jesus **BEFORE** the world began! (2 Tim. 1:8-9)

THEREFORE: Since the genuine Christian is one who has been given by the Father to the Son— does this mean that the genuine CHRISTIAN IS FREE TO SIN?

RESPONSE:

A GENUINE BELIEVER CANNOT sin without consequence. GOD CHASTISES SINNING BELIEVERS! Hebrews 12:3-8—

- 3 For consider him [JESUS] that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
- 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.
- 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as

unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? **8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all [sons] are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

FOR THE SINNING BELIEVER:

How CAN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BE RESTORED? "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

But what if PROFESSING believers don't confess and do not TURN FROM rebellion against God? **RESPONSE: HERE IS A CLEAR CONTRAST BETWEEN—** (1) THE GENUINE BELIEVER and (2) THE COUNTERFEIT BELIEVER (Hebrews 12:6-8)

1. Those belonging to the LORD JESUS CHRIST are loved and thus chastened. God doesn't REJECT disobedient Believers. He does not UN-SAVE them. They cannot over-power God and un-save themselves. **RATHER, He chastens them/us...** UNTIL they/we turn from our disobedience... or until they/we die—WHICH EVER comes first! (See: 1 Cor. 11:30-32)

2. Those who do not belong to the LORD JESUS CHRIST are not chastened because they are bastards— not sons/daughters redeemed by the blood of Jesus! **NO CHASTENING?? — NOT GOD'S CHILD!** Never was God's child! An illegitimate! An anti-Christ! A FOOLISH VIRGIN! TARES AMONG THE WHEAT!

JESUS SAYS: I NEVER KNEW YOU! JESUS SAYS, 'EVERY PLANT WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER HATH NOT PLANTED, SHALL BE ROOTED UP! (Matt. 15:13)

SO, YES, IN PSALM 106:40, THERE IS SOME STRONG LANGUAGE: *"Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance."* Israel had broken their fellowship with God to the point that God CHASTENED THEM ... **HOWEVER, GOD never forsook them.**

HIGH LIGHTS FROM PSALM 106

(And remember, GOD HAD END TIMES CHRISTIANS IN MIND, when He moved the Psalmist to write this ... and as He has PRESERVED IT ALL THESE MANY YEARS!!)

1. PRAISE: Psalm 106: 1-3 "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for his mercy endureth forever. 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise? 3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times."

NOTE: Praise to God is reverent, cheerful, and boasting adoration in response to WHO God is and the good things He has done.

PRAISING GOD IS TELLING OTHERS WHAT GOD HAS DONE! TELLING OTHERS HOW WONDERFUL GOD IS IN HIS BEING. **How powerful/glorious will be our worship services when we heed this:** "I will remember the works of the LORD... AND talk of all THY DOINGS! (Ps. 77:11-12) "Come ye and hear, all ye that fear God, and I WILL DECLARE what He [GOD!] hath done for my soul." (Ps. 66:16)

2. REMEMBER ME: Psalm 106: 4-5 (LORD! Remember me— Luke 23:42) "Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; 5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

The Psalmist's prayer is similar to that of the repentant thief! "LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM!" (L. 23:42) EVERYTHING TRULY GOOD AND NEEDFUL AND FULFILLING IS IN GOD... IN HIS KINGDOM... AND I AM POOR AND NEEDY — O GOD, REMEMBER ME!

3. REBELLION AND CONFESSION: Psalm 106: 6-12 (REBELLION at the Red Sea: Exodus 13:17-15:27) "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. 7 Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. 9 He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so, he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. 10 And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them

from the hand of the enemy. 11 And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. 12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.” [See: 1 Cor. 10:8-14]

What a history! It's so much like our own! Filled with INGRATITUDE / FORGETFULNESS / REBELLION / GRUMBLING! **BUT GOD** KEPT ON BEING FAITHFUL TO HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE! **SERIOUS TRUTH:** Our whole lives are but one continual providential deliverance, one after another... all miraculous... all undeserved!

4. MURMURING: Psalm 106: 13-15 (MURMURING in the Desert—Numbers 11) “They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

LET US LINGER LONG HERE: 1. They forgot God's miracles. 2. Self-willed, they would not wait for His guidance. 3. Blind to their past and present blessings, they lusted for what **FOR WHAT GOD HAD NOT PROVIDED!** 4. **AND GOD, “GAVE THEM THEIR REQUEST; BUT SENT LEANNESS INTO THEIR SOUL!”** MATTHEW HENRY IS RIGHT:

“What is asked in passion is often given in wrath!” Sometimes God permits us to have the things, the relationships we desire. He lets us have our own way; but this is not indication of His approval or of wisdom or a guarantee of happiness or well-being.

‘BUT I’VE PRAYED ABOUT IT! I HAVE PEACE ABOUT IT!’

SO? ... REMEMBER: LOT GOT HIS REQUEST of the apparently BEST LAND! 2. THE PRODIGAL GOT HIS INHERITANCE! 3. ESAU GOT HIS STOMACH FILLED.

A sadder sight there cannot be than DESIRES FILLED, SOULS LEAN and EMPTY!

5. REJECTION: Psalm 106: 16-18 (REJECTION of God's Servant Leaders— Numbers 16)

"They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD. 17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan and covered the company of Abiram. 18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked."

Parents, Husbands, Work Bosses, Teachers, Pastors — at best are frail and flawed and will stand in stricter judgment before God!

BUT WOE UNTO THOSE WHO DISRESPECT AND REBEL!

6. IDOLATRY: Psalm 106: 19-23 (IDOLATRY— Exodus 20:1-21; Exodus 24; Exodus 32) "They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. 20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass. 21 They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt; 22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea. 23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them."

MOSES WAS gone a mere 40 days. THE PEOPLE FLED INTO PAGAN IDOLATRY and a compromising Aaron led them in pagan worship!

Why such a rush into rebellion and idols?

Biblical Answer: We naturally hate authority. We hate God's law. We love to feed our flesh. We love to yield to our EMOTIONS. WE LOVE TO HAVE APPROVING RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES TO APPROVE OUR SIN or to tickle our ears! 2 Tim. 4:3-5) Romans 8:7—The interests of the flesh are HOSTILE to God. The fleshly minded HATES GOD. AND JESUS CONTINUES TO SAY, "If you love me, keep my commandments! **All sin is an expression of rebellion and hatred of God!**

7. FAITHLESSNESS: Psalm 106: 24-27 (FAITHLESSNESS— Numbers 13:25 - 14: 2, 27, 28) "Yea, they **despised** the pleasant land, they **believed not** his word: 25 But **murmured** in their tents, and **hearkened not** unto the voice of the LORD. 26 Therefore, He lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness: 27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands."

Here we are looking at the DESTRUCTIVE power of the MAJORITY REPORT ... the 10 spies.

REALITY: Many of us YIELD to the 'Majority Report' time and time again as we make decisions and choices based upon our FEELINGS, our EVALUATIONS, our IDEAS and our sacred religious TRADITIONS.

Like Israel, we deny the Word of God;

**we elevate the opinions of men
and hate those who stand on the Word of God.**

8. SINFUL WORSHIP: Psalm 106: 28-31 (SINFUL WORSHIP— Numbers 25:1- 18) “They joined themselves also unto Baal-Peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. 29 Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them. 30 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so, the plague was stayed. 31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.”

IN OUR DAY, who will stand up and be counted and proclaim the WORD OF GOD, be such preaching welcome or unwelcome?
ALARM: EVANGELICALS LOVE the Word of God UNTIL or UNLESS the Word of God does not support what we love or practice!

9. THE MEEK ... A DEADLY ANGER: Psalm 106: 32-33 (THE SIN OF MOSES— Num. 20:1-13) “They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: 33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he [MOSES] spake unadvisedly with his lips. This has to be one of the saddest events in all of history!

MOSES: What a great man— the MEEKEST man; an awesome leader. He endured. He interceded. **However, he was kept out of the promised land because of his Anger. WHEN MUCH IS AT STAKE THERE IS A HIGHER ACCOUNTABILITY!** Here was Moses, the Great

Law-giver, the Great leader— and God held Moses to the sharpest and closest account! (Meditate on these: Ez. 33:6 / James 3:1 / Col. 3:12-25)

**10. REPEAT DEFEAT: Psalm 106: 34-39 (SAME OLD STORY—
Judges 1:27-36; 2:1-3:6)**

“They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: 35 But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. 36 And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. 37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, 38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: ***and the land was polluted with blood. 39 Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.***”

HERE’S MORE compromise / Open rebellion / Refusing to be different from the world

**11. SAME CYCLES OF SIN / FAILURE: Psalm 106: 40-46—
(During the days of the Judges!)**

“Therefore, was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. 41 And He gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. 42 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. 43 Many times did He deliver them; but they provoked Him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. 44 Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, when He heard their cry: 45 And **He remembered** for them His covenant, **and repented** according to the multitude of his mercies. 46 He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them

captives.” **O how great was and IS God’s FAITHFULNESS and MERCY!**

12. SAVE ME! SAVE US! SAVE OUR NATION: Psalm 106:47 47

Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise. **ARE THERE THOSE AMONG US, DESPERATELY CRYING OUR ... OR ... NEEDING TO CRY OUT: 1. SAVE ME, O LORD— SAVE MY LOST SOUL! 2. SAVE ME, O LORD— SAVE ME FROM MY BONDAGE! 3. SAVE US, O LORD—** we as a nation have sinned... IS THERE NOT A CALL FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OUR HEARTS TODAY:

“HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE SIGHT OF GOD!”

13. AMEN! PRAISE YE THE LORD! Psalm 106:48 “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, **Amen. Praise ye the LORD.**” As in Nehemiah’s day: When we are broken over our sin— THEN: PRAISE and the JOY OF THE LORD WILL COME FORTH Nehemiah 8-9 (1 Corinthians 10:11-14)

[This article, developed from a message preached at Southside, back in 2012 ... I’m sure that gleaning was done from various Bible-based sources!]

Grace to all in Christ! James www.southsidegallatin.org

SUNDAY SERVICES for JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

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

JULY 5 — FELLOWSHIP MEAL, after Morning Worship

JULY 19 — LORD'S SUPPER // Home Groups

JULY 26 — EVENING WORSHIP, 5:00PM

EVERY SATURDAY * 8:00 AM — Men's Bible Study!** (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!*) *July 4 ... ROMANS 10:17-21*

NEXT LADIES' BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY,

JULY 7 @ 11:00 AM **TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am

Young Adults! Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhī'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>