

# **THE BODY OF CHRIST**

By

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I know all too well how most perceive a matter of opinion, but I believe that, because it is a relatively uncomfortable topic to discuss, far too many Believers simply choose to avoid the issues when it comes to Last Day scenarios. The Bible prompts us to consider some very scary thoughts and it certainly is not a pleasant conversation to have but bearing in mind the circumstances we find ourselves in today, these might be the most important aspects to consider.

If a Believer thinks these circumstances are vivid fantasy, reserved for future generations or that they will simply go away, I emphatically encourage you to reconsider. If you need a reason to believe, consider that there are approximately 2,500 prophecies in the Hebrew Bible. More than 2,000 of them have been fulfilled. The odds of 80% being fulfilled "by chance" or coincidence is 1:10<sup>80</sup>, one in ten followed by 80 zeros. At those odds, there is a better chance

that water could boil without heat or that it could freeze at a temperature of 50° F. There are of course more examples, but this alone provides some convincing evidence.

Based on biblical theology and prophecy, I believe that Christians need to be extremely concerned about the 'Mark of the Beast', which I further believe is just one of the many signs leading to Christ's return. This frightening revelation is in reference to an occurrence that will take place prior to or as part of the antichrist's reign. The Church therefore needs to prepare for such events.

When it comes to the Rapture, there are as many interpretations as there are denominations. So, I give little thought to the timeframe for when or even if the event will take place but want to be ready for anything. Since so many Theologians cannot even agree, I think we are better off preparing for the worst-case scenario. If it is a late Rapture that takes place during global turmoil or a figment of religious imagination, I intend to consider all conceivable possibilities. If the Rapture does take place, many Christians (perhaps even most) are likely be 'called up', but according to the Word as I interpret it, not all. So, to optimistically assume that you will automatically be included in

that select group is a dangerous proposition to consider.

I encourage all; please do not take my word for it, but do not take anyone else's word for it either. Read what is written in the bible for yourself and test what you hear others say against the Word. For every preacher who says one thing, there are more who say another. As I interpret the biblical predictions, it is the Believers, those that refuse to conform to the world's perfect little cashless system (Mark of the Beast), who beguile the unprecedented persecution that lies ahead.

I believe this nefarious system will be established before the antichrist assumes his role. One would also expect that it will most likely be initiated before the postulated Rapture occurs, but I am prepared for the possibility that it will not. If we are truly living in the Last Days, it is safe to assume that an unknown number of Believers will be 'called up', but an unknown number of them shall also live to witness the 2nd Coming of Christ.

Since the Mark of the Beast (cashless system), which I believe will be a computer chip inserted in the hand or forehead, will most likely be in place long before the divine rescue. It is not a farfetched concept either. People have been using a similar system

to monitor and track their pets for years. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, recently recommended implementation of such a system as a handsfree way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Christians therefore need to prepare themselves for how they will endure and survive the challenges of such a difficult period. We cannot simply presume or hope that the Rapture will take place in time to avoid it and/or that some of us or all will be exempt from the melee.

With that thought in mind, as you consider the following scenarios that Believers will most likely encounter, you must ask yourself, 'Is my faith strong enough to endure?'

Could you deal with loved ones being 'locked out' of a system that enables you to purchase food, medicine and all the practical necessities of life as we presently know it?

You must ask yourself; If your child was dying and needed medical attention, is your faith strong enough to trust that God will provide? Is it strong enough to relinquish his soul into God's hands by virtue of death?

If death was the punishment for proclaiming your belief in God

or Jesus Christ and refusing to conform to the world's new 'perfect cashless system', we must KNOW our faith strong enough to endure torturous treatment. Are you prepared to lay down your life for God?

Even Christ's disciples, who knew Him better than we ever could, denied they knew Him to avoid the potential ramifications. If your faith is not as strong as theirs or stronger, you may be inclined to receive the "Mark". Keep in mind and never forget; According to the Bible, if you elect to receive the Mark, you choose to give up on God and sacrifice your eternal life in heaven. You are sentencing yourself to an eternity in hell. Is any price we must pay in this fleeting moment of time in the brief era of human existence worth sacrificing an eternal life, trillions of years, in God's genuine paradise? I can assure you, regardless of the price I am forced to pay, there will NOT be a "Mark" in my hand or forehead!

If you refuse the Mark, you will no longer have a home and there will be virtually no safe place to live. You may no longer have a roof over your head and no car to drive. Do you know where you would go and what you would do to survive? Unfortunately, Believers need to think about such a scenario.

***"Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit, sayeth the***

**Lord.**" As the Body of Christ, we are His Spiritual representatives in Satan's world and must prepare for worldwide rejection. We certainly should not dwell on the fear of such circumstances, but the Body of Christ should be alert and extremely concerned about the Mark of the Beast.

If the Bible is true, and I have every reason to believe it is, we must acknowledge the fact that the persecution of Christians is coming, and soon. If this unique period will be as devastating as the Bible indicates, we need to plan for it accordingly. Presently, at least as far as I know, the global Body of Christ (The Church) has no provisional plan in place. There will most likely be many believers left behind and forced to endure this radical period of persecution. Those who remain will undoubtedly face an army of non-believers. At some point, they will need a survival plan.

Even if most believers were fortunate enough to avoid the Last Days turmoil by virtue of the Rapture, there will be a vast number of potential souls that will be depending on the Church. An intricate network must be in place to assist them. During this chaotic period, many non-believers will be saved. They will turn to the Body of Christ, come to know the Lord, and accept Him as their Savior. It is also true that many Believers shall perish at the

hands of persecutors due solely to their steadfast beliefs. If the Body of Christ does not take steps now, it will be much more difficult to establish that network after the fact.

Sadly, a great many genuine believers will succumb to the earthly demands and surrender to the infamous 'Mark'. So, when you are asked the question, "Do you believe in God?" can you answer "YES" without hesitation.

## **The Body of Christ**

Many have forgotten or seem to have overlooked a tremendously significant biblical aspect. ONE, and only one, of Christ's prayers have to date still gone unanswered. That of course is His final prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to His crucifixion.

*"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;<sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."<sup>22</sup>*

*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:<sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may*

*know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."*

To fully grasp the significance of that unanswered prayer, we must consider the current status of the Body of Christ. Paul did not describe the "Body" symbolically, as if we were to represent members of a federation. I believe that he, as Jesus signified, intended for us to envision the Body of Christ as an actual "being", a complete body with our Lord Jesus Christ as the 'head' and God Himself as the Spirit linking that Body to Christ and the Father.

Picture the Body of Christ as it exists today. Unfortunately, it is a body that is broken and divided into fragments that have been scattered to all corners of the Earth. The legs of that body have been shattered by global skepticism and ridicule to a point that it simply cannot stand on its own. The arms and fingers have been severely damaged and are useless extremities with limited capabilities. Yet, even in its present condition, the tiniest fragment of that Body can still do mighty miracles by the power of the Spirit that encompasses it.

As prophesied, I believe that Christ's prayer WILL BE answered soon. And God shall pour out His Spirit upon all fragments of that

frail Body, which will begin to heal and eventually stand as ONE Body. The Body shall become all that Christ once was on earth and, with its tremendous diversity, perhaps more. Christ, by virtue of His revitalized body, will stand again in this world to face evil with all of God's authority. By His Spirit, the Body of Christ on earth will perform miracles beyond comprehension. Until His glorious 2nd Coming, God's presence in this world will be known through the Body of Christ and by its actions on His behalf.

Prayer is an important link to the source of God's spiritual power. Once the Body becomes one with Christ, as He intended all along, He will perform His work through us, but He will not do our work for us. My meaning is simple. His followers tend to pawn their responsibilities off on Jesus and have for far too long. Once He pours out the very essence of God's Spirit on the Body of Christ, we will be given the power to do all that He did and more. Unfortunately, we have so far failed Him miserably.

It will be up to us to harness that power together as one. But be forewarned; the rest of the world will not be too anxious to see that prominent revival and the Body of Christ will not be well received. As the Spirit of God strengthens the Body, so too will the spiritual forces of evil that oppose it. Serving God in Satan's

world will not be easy. Even if we wanted to, I do not think we could or should shun the responsibility or avoid the adversity yet to come. In my humble opinion, the Rapture will not be a means of escape. It may very-well be a means of divine rescue in the Body's greatest hour of need, but those left behind must be prepared.

I know in my heart the pain and sacrifice that my Savior willingly suffered for my sake. In exchange for His sacrifice, much like His Disciples, we must be prepared to endure whatever lies ahead for His name's sake. I do not know that we can truly imagine the turbulent times and suffering that Satan has in store for those who must bear that burden, but we can be assured that it will most likely supersede our expectations and worst fears.

These aspects and more are covered in my notes for upcoming books, which fully address a more in-depth understanding of my view of the Bible and the many challenges that lay ahead.

I have always believed that extensive discussions of these controversial issues within the Body of Christ are in order. Yet, I have been abruptly reprimanded by friends and relatives who adamantly state, "Because they typically involve personal opinions and could lead to a disagreement, we make it a practice never to

discuss politics or religion in our house!"

If you do not discuss religion, Christ, and eternal life with your family, who will? They certainly will not hear about God in today's public schools. Those who are counting solely on their preacher or Sunday School teacher to prepare their children, will most likely be disappointed. Today's churches operate more like a business. Because their objective is to grow their congregation, many churches tend to focus on the beauty of the Bible, the promise of God's love. While that approach is understandable and even commendable, we cannot dismiss or overlook the balance of all that is written. The Bible offers numerous prophecies designed to prepare us for the Last Days. If we are indeed living in the last days, we need to keep our focus where God wants it to be, not where we are comfortable being.

Most Believers, who attend church regularly or occasionally, simply trust that their preacher is delivering the truth. Ask around. Most do not even read the Bible, which is more important than attending a "church" on Sunday. Every fragment of the Body of Christ (every genuine Believer) should embellish household prayer and Bible study to ensure the best understanding of God's Word.

Do not allow yourself to get caught in the "traps" of false prophets! Test what I say, and what anyone else says, about the Bible according to the Word!

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