



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

The Beast & The Lamb
Revelation 13:1-14:5

Summary

Revelation 13 and 14 explore what is truly necessary for living the Christian life in a world marked by spiritual opposition. This text uses the imagery of the two beasts and the Lamb to frame a larger question: what does it look like to faithfully follow Jesus when the forces of evil are actively working against God's people? Rather than focusing on speculation about the beasts' identities, the sermon directs attention to three essential qualities that God calls every believer to cultivate: wisdom, faith, and endurance.

Questions

1. Mike asked: 'What really matters in living the Christian life?' How would you have answered that question before this series, and has your thinking shifted at all after hearing it?
2. This text describes the beast as representing the kingdoms of this world, drawing on imagery from Daniel. In what ways do you see the pressures and values of the world around you pulling you away from following Jesus?
3. Wisdom is described as the ability to detect and unmask deception. What are some of the most common lies that our culture tells us about the purpose of life, money, or relationships, and how do you guard yourself against believing them?
4. The mark of the beast is interpreted as a symbol of allegiance to what is opposed to God. In practical terms, what does it look like to give your allegiance to God rather than to the values and systems of this world?
5. Chapter 14 highlights that the 144,000 represent all of God's redeemed people, with their names written in the Lamb's book of life. How does the assurance of your salvation and your secure place in God's family affect the way you face difficulty or opposition?
6. Faith is described as having a real object, not just a feeling we drum up on our own. What specific promises of God do you find yourself returning to most often when your faith feels weak?
7. Mike emphasized that endurance is perhaps the most urgent call in Revelation. Can you share a season in your life when endurance as a Christian was especially difficult, and what helped you keep going?
8. Mike ended his sermon with the reminder that God has promised to supply wisdom, faith, and endurance to those who ask. What is one area of your

Christian life right now where you most need to ask God for one of these three things?

Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you need wisdom, faith, or endurance as a follower of Jesus. Write it down, bring it to God in prayer each day, and share it with one trusted person in your life who can pray with you and check in with you by the end of the week.

Key Takeaways

1. Living the Christian life in a world opposed to God requires wisdom: the ability to discern truth from lies and to recognize the deceptions and idols of our age.
2. Faith is not an abstraction but has a real object. Believers are called to trust in God's promises, including the assurance that their names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
3. Endurance is perhaps the most urgent call of the entire book of Revelation. Following Jesus in this world will involve real hardship, and believers must be prepared to press on through it.
4. The beasts in Revelation 13 represent the collective power of worldly kingdoms and systems that are opposed to God, and they are only allowed to operate within the boundaries of God's sovereign permission.
5. God does not call believers to wisdom, faith, and endurance without also promising to supply them. He intercedes for his people and provides everything needed for life and godliness.

