

Sermon Discussion Guide

Revelation: Beastly Opposition
Revelation 13
October 24 & 25, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to use the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What are some major themes from the book of Revelation that have been helpful and encouraging to you?
2. What have been your perceptions and presuppositions of the things that Ray said are "true" in this passage - the devil, cosmic spiritual war, demonic power beyond what we see? Have you always believed in the devil and how has this series and this particular sermon changed your view of spiritual opposition?

Beastly Opposition: Our Adversaries

1. Take some time to review and discuss what Ray explained about the number "666" and the spiritual/theological implications of that.

2. Much of this passage alludes to persecution from the state and the false god that it can become. Take some time to discuss how different life for you would be if you were a first century Christian in Rome. What do you think you might be missing in your spiritual life and walk with Jesus by living as a modern day Christian in America?

3. In this election season, what has your allegiance? Be honest as a group to share how you're tempted to place your hope in a political party or candidate or the "state" of the U.S.

4. Discuss why we as a church often applaud more for a Marine home from duty than we do a missionary who is taking the gospel to an unreached part of the world?

5. Beast #2 promotes the worship of Beast #1 but does it through deceitful religion. Thinking about your life before your encounter with the gospel of grace, how did you previously experience deceitful religion? (Was it through another religion, legalistic Christianity or self-righteousness?)

6. Discuss examples you see (or even feel yourself tempted by) the modern religion of self-autonomy.

Beastly Opposition: Our Response

1. How have you been sobered as a Christian? How have you learned the "hard" of following Jesus?

2. To grow in our wisdom requires that we fill our mind and heart with the word of God. In what ways are you doing this? How could you do a better job of this? Where have you seen/experienced the value of filling your heart and mind with word of God?

3. How does our confidence in God's work and what he's done in the gospel change how we live our lives each day?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?