

Sunday, April 23, 2023 - "The Return - Week 1 - Cheerfully Endure" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 13, Revelation 14, John 14:6, Philippians 4:19, 2 Corinthians 1:3, Acts 17:28

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- If you know the future you would be all in...and bet on the winner
- We wager who we are on the outcome between God and Satan...Revelation is the revelation of THE WINNER
- Chapter 13 Cliff notes (God creates, Satan imitates)
 - False Trinity: Dragon = Satan, Beast = word of Satan (signs, wonders), 2nd Beast = False witness
 - Everything that has and will happened has been allowed by God. Any authority is given by God
 - God is not anxious even for a moment...He's in control even when we don't see/understand
- Chapter 14: the wicked are judged
- Knowing all of this, how are we to live?
 - We don't have to guess
 - John tells us how we are to respond...Revelation 13:10, 13:18, 14:12
 - This is why Revelation was written
- Endure = to be steadfast, patiently waiting (greek = cheerful endurance and consistency)
 - Only possible when we know the outcome
 - "You must focus on the inevitable victory to cheerfully endure the current difficulty" - Doug Kempton
 - Not ust grind our way through but CHEERFULLY endure —> people will see Jesus
- We cheerfully endure by...
 - **Being wise**
 - Recognize the real vs. the counterfeit
 - Satan takes and uses gifts/blessings as counterfeits
 - **Being obedient** (Revelation 14:12)
 - We usually know what's right and wrong
 - We have the wisdom but struggle to be obedient
 - For every truth/promise there is a counterfeit
 - John 14:6 - What/who is the truth (not our own truth)
 - Philippians 4:19 - God is our provider (not ourselves)
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3 - God is our comfort (we seek out our own comfort)
 - Acts 17:28 - Our true identity comes form the Lord
 - We live - find life or meaning, made alive
 - We move - set in motion, stirred up, provoked to move
 - Have our being - you "are", identity firmly rooted in Jesus
 - **Staying faithful to Jesus**

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How do you respond to the truth that Jesus is victorious in the end?
2. What does endurance look like for you and your walk with God?
3. How has God given you wisdom and grown you in being wise?
4. What are some of the counterfeit truths or promises that you have identified in your life?
5. What does it mean for you to live, move and have your being in Christ?
6. How is God asking you to remain faithful to him right now?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Fairest Lord Jesus (My Soul's Glory) - *Paul Baloche*] - [Shall Not Want - *Elevation Worship*] - [Praises (Be Lifted Up) - *Josh Baldwin*] - [Raise a Hallelujah - *Bethel Music*]