



The Mark

By Taylor Braswell on November 9, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Revelation 13

In Revelation 13, Satan is building an empire of deception and is fighting a war against God and His people. Satan uses a parody trinity consisting of Satan (dragon), the antichrist (sea beast), and the false prophet (earth beast) to gain control of an empire. The antichrist parodies Christ's death and resurrection to gain control over this world where believers will then be persecuted. In this empire, those who do not worship the beast are exiled. This will be a global event (vs. 16), in which all people from all walks of life must have the number of the beast in order to buy or sell anything. Christians will be forced to choose between living comfortably or worshipping God. Do not be deceived, Christian, there will be consequences for following Christ.

The time is coming soon when we will no longer be able to speak about what God has said is right and wrong without being punished in our societies. Recently, Kanye West had his bank account shut down for things he said about the media (I am not saying Kanye West is a Christian as only God knows that, and I do not think he is a good role model or that we should listen to anything he says). I was thinking about how easy it was for a bank to shut down his account while the world celebrated the decision. I was thinking about the people in this country being sued for things they are saying in the public square. I thought about a Christian baker who had his life ruined because he would not bake a cake for a gay wedding. Church, the time is now when we can face consequences for sharing God's design for our lives.

Although this is true, I want to remind you that this life is nothing compared to eternity. Choosing God over idols will be more rewarding even though the world will hate us. *"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen"* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18a).

PRAYER: God, You are sovereign over the nations and governments of the world. Thank You for Your Word which reminds me that I can trust You even when life seems uncertain and difficult. Help me choose You over idols each day.

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 14

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