

Mark of the Beast

Message from the DVD Archive

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If you will, look with me in your Bibles to Revelation 13. I want to read from verse 10 down to verse 18 and talk to you about the mark of the beast. Now if I had taken the time to put this in the paper, maybe run a few television ads, we might not have had enough room in this building today to house people that would have come out of curiosity because there's an awful lot of curiosity and speculation about this. But I can tell you without a doubt, before this message is over, you will know who is the beast and what is the mark of the beast. So that's something that all these other false prophets haven't been able to figure out yet but I know for a certainty based on what we're reading here in God's word. So buckle your seatbelt and we're going to find out.

In Revelation 13, remember we finished up last time in verse 9 discussing this first beast. There's two beasts set forth in this chapter, the one we saw John describe it as one rising up out of the sea in verse 1. Now what's of interest here is that the second beast rises up out of the earth. Sea and earth. And yet there's a lot of similarities that we're going to look at together. But we saw in verse 9, "If any man have an ear, let him hear." So this is not something that's going to be perceived by natural minds or figuring out with reason. It takes an ear, which the Spirit gives, and causes one to hear. And you'll notice this same section, the second part with regard to the second beast in verse 18, it's not going to be figured out in natural minds. It says, "Here is wisdom," and again, spiritual wisdom because you may wonder, "Well, how come we're all reading the same Bible and all coming up with different interpretations?" That's what natural wisdom does until the Lord teaches you.

And so I'd have you to note that, but you see the Lord himself makes this judgment and I could preach a whole message just on verse 10 where it says, "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." What it's showing is that there's nations that rise and fall and people are people. It's like an individual, you dress him up, he might be just be guarding some equipment overnight but you put him in a uniform and that man is going to be the law. I mean, he's out of that uniform and he's got his badge on his shoulder. There are Barney Fife's out there that, you know, rule the roost and I'm not in any way degrading that sort of occupation because people that work that, I'm sure that it's the way the Lord's providing,

but I'm talking about the attitude of the heart. Men get proud and, boy, they can bring home the rule until something happens to them.

And that's what this is saying here, this beast that's being described, the one that was described in the first part, we saw how it typified Rome and the Roman Empire, and its ruthless persecution of the church. And yet where is Rome today? Where is that empire today? Where's Babylon today? Where's the empire of Alexander the Great? You see, Alexander the Great actually sat down and bawled because there wasn't any more nations to conquer. And yet the Lord said, "He that leadeth into captivity shall himself go into captivity. He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." And I would say this, there are an awful lot of preachers that wave or use the legal whip to try to keep people in line and yet without a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. They that have exercised that authority over men, in the end will be condemned by that very law that they spent their lifetime preaching. All right.

So you can see the warning here in verse 10, but it says, "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." You see why I said I could preach a whole message just on that. There is a patient enduring of the Lord's people in the face of opposition and affliction and all that's wrong. You know, we're not like Don Quixote's trying to tilt against the windmill of false religion. It is what it is and we just know that unless the Lord grants repentance, all these kingdoms of men that they have built monuments to their ignorance, will one day come down. We don't have to go out and attack it. The Lord has purposed it to be here forever until the end of time. What do we do? Patiently wait. Thank the Lord that he's been pleased to reveal Christ in us, few though our number may be in this world. And hold to the faith. You know, I say hold to, but it's holding us. This faith is holding us and it's the faith of the saints. How on earth can a sinner ever bear that title of being a saint? Certainly not anything in himself. It's by the imputed righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ through that work of Christ at Calvary that God himself charged to our camp because Christ finished the work. You see, that's the faith of these saints, that's where God causes his people to look no matter how great the opposition or how great the isolation in this world.

Now you get to the end there and you think, "Woo, I'm glad that first beast is past." Well, you know, you think, "Well, I'm glad I didn't live in that era." Well, hold on. There is here described in verse 11, "I beheld another beast," and it was "coming up" this time, you see, "out of the earth." First was out of the sea, this out of the earth. "And he had two horns like a lamb," but what? "He spake as a dragon." Spake as a dragon.

But it says here, "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast." There's different ways of exercising power over men's minds. You can do it with violence as it was with the Roman Empire, or you can do it with subtlety, with subtlety or deceivableness, and that's really what the emphasis is on this second beast. Have things changed since the first century? Not at all. Maybe that first beast is dead, but as we're going to learn here, it's been healed. The wound has been healed. As far as the empire, the physical empire of Rome, that's dead, but its tentacles live on. See, the wound has been healed, but come in in a different form now, a lot more subtle.

I talk to people all the time who will stand up and denounce the Roman Catholic Church. They will denounce its origins. They will denounce where it came from. They will denounce it as evil, denounce the Pope, and yet they themselves by their very doctrine are caught up with the very same forms of ceremonies, of religion, of works, but they don't see it. Why? It's subtle.

You see, that first beast had 10 horns. This one has two, has two, but it's still, they work together. That's what it says here, "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men," and here it is, "And deceiveth them," deceiveth them, "that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Now here it is, verse 18. So everybody's talking about this number but here is wisdom, "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of," now "a" is in there but in the original it just says "man." It is the number of man, all right? "And his number is Six hundred threescore and six," or 666.

All right, so these here in this chapter are two beasts described and again, as I said, they're alike in many ways, and yet they also have some dissimilarities, but they both describe the same thing. That's what I want you to see. Anti-Christian thought or anti-Christ would be a better way to put it for understanding, anti-Christ values and anti-Christ doctrine and anti-Christ worship, all right, so that's what we're seeing. As I mentioned in verses 1 through 10, we saw that last time, again, similar and typical of the Roman government that existed in the first century. It represents really not just that, but all anti-Christ governments, or if you will, church states. We may not be so familiar with this here per se, but there are countries where the head of state is actually the head of the church. A lot of people don't realize it, but the Episcopal Church, for example, the queen is still the head of that church, the Queen of England. She has theoretically all rights to dictate whatever is to be. Now she's chosen to stay out of it for now, but she could easily step back in. There are other countries and places around the world where that's the case. You say, "Well, how did it get that way?" This beast where religious leaders were pleased to join with the heads of government to try to get their cause accomplished, you realize you can go back and quote the Reformers all you want to and I've got myself in trouble from some people that call themselves Calvinists for denouncing Reformers, but you can go back and do this yourself, men like John Calvin, John Owen, Martin Luther, these were all men who sought to unite with the governments of their day to get their cause through and they did it with the sword. John Owen used to be the chaplain of Oliver Cromwell's army and went into Ireland and pillaged and destroyed and killed in the name of the gospel. He would read the Psalms for the army before they went in and did their battle. And that's why today you go back and look at the conflict, you hear it on the news

between Christian and Catholic or Protestant and Catholic over in Ireland, land was taken away from people and the descendants are still fighting to get that back. Protestants took the land for themselves and their families. Now, generations later, here comes the Catholics wanting it back, all of these conflicts in the name of religion, in the name of religion.

So you can see it's got its tentacles throughout history. It's got its tentacles throughout the world. Back in the Roman days, they made statues of Caesar. I'm just trying to give you some background to show you this isn't just pulled out of a hat what I'm telling you. What John was writing here, he was living in his day. They made statues of Caesar and ordered that any who identified with Christ and his gospel should bow and say, "Caesar is Lord," and if they didn't, they were put to death. You go back and read the martyrs of the catacombs thrown to lions, burned alive at stake while Nero and his cohorts sat at banquets. They had those that professed Christ and would not renounce him, they had them tied to the stake behind him and tarred and burning while he ate. You sit there and think how on earth could this ever take place? But it was a reality.

That's the beast. That's why it's described as a beast by John and ruthless. It was done with the sword. And ever since the Roman era, the same sort of tactics. You can go back it through church history not only with Catholicism, you've heard of how the Catholics used to tie people to the rack, try to get them to renounce being Protestants. And everybody would say, "Well, those bad Catholics." Do you know what? Protestants did the same thing. When they got into power, they turned the tables and did the same thing even against, you know, small groups of believers that would meet like we are. That time they weren't called Baptists, but that's how they became identified as Anabaptists and these small groups. But they were persecuted not by the Catholic Church, but by the Protestants, the very ones, you know, who held to the truth. It was bloody.

It's a bloody beast and that's what we see there but verses 11 through 18, all right, I'm just trying to show you. You might say again, "Well, I'm glad that's all behind us." Well, there's another beast, another beast, this one more docile, all right? Again, we enjoy freedom. We're meeting here without any sort of threat as far as I know of anybody coming in and taking us away, but the world where there is a beast that has, as it says here in verse 11, two horns like a lamb. It doesn't say two horns of a lamb. Now I had to go back and do a little study because I'm not used to thinking of lambs having horns, but I must've missed this in my classes in school. Even a ram is of the lamb family, is of the sheep family, so you can have a ram, which is of a sheep family that has horns, but there are even other types of sheep and lambs I found out that actually have horns, even though all don't. Some sheep breeds have horns on both the rams and the ewes, okay?

So this is not unusual when it speaks here of this lamb here having two horns, but I believe the real purpose of this is to contrast it with what the first beast is. That one had 10 horns, which is a sign of power. This one has two horns, a little bit more docile and yet, as it says in verse 12, "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast." That's why I said there's two ways of exercising power, either with a dictatorship and crushing the opposition, or subtlety and bringing in people who don't know they're being drawn in. And I believe this is the beast today that we're dealing with, people being drawn into

religion, being drawn into false profession, being drawn into a works religion, just every bit as strong as what it was back in Rome and don't know it. They've been deceived. This is a deception, as it says here, as we read it in verse 14, "and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth," all right?

So I hope that this is clear as we get into this. I believe what's described here is typical of what Paul wrote about to the Thessalonians. If you look over in 2 Thessalonians 2, because it says here that this one will deceive many by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast. Do you realize that for centuries there wasn't much emphasis on miracles at all, until toward the end of the 19th century. All of a sudden people started having these supposed visions and whatnot, and then out of that came this whole charismatic movement. And today it's just, it's taken the world, hasn't it? It's taken the world. That's all people want to know about. What kind of healing services do you have? And how many people have been delivered from Satan by these meetings that they have to cast out Satan? All these things. You say, "Why is this all so prominent?" Well, here in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 through 13, I'm not going to read this entire thing, but just point out some verses. Even back in Paul's day, he said, "Now we beseech you brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, neither by spirit nor by word nor by letter as from us as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first," and falling away means an apostasy. It means a going away from the truth. And so right here, we can understand how this fits with Revelation 13. Don't think because that first beast is gone that now we're enjoying millenniums of peace and all as well. No, there's another beast that has arisen out of the earth that is just as evil and just as deceptive in its religion. It's false religion. It's religion of works and of miracles and of signs that's taken the world by storm. Slowly, you know, when you talk about a falling away, it doesn't happen overnight, and I believe that we can expect, I know there's some out there that are optimistic and keep saying things are going to get better, I don't see it, not from scripture. We can expect that this is going to continue to grow until the Lord comes again.

That's what's being described in Revelation 13 as it says here in verse 7, "the mystery of iniquity." It's a mystery of iniquity because it draws people away from the one true righteousness that God has established and imputed to his people, the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. You talk about people caught up in religion, especially these miraculous groups, they have no interest in you talking to them about doctrine. They're the first to tell you, "You know, that that's so complicated. What we've got in our church is love. What we've got, we're seeing God's mighty hand every day." And they'll use the name of Christ. That's the lamb, you see. It has two horns like a lamb but it's the voice of a dragon. They'll use the name of Christ. They'll say it's all by his blood. I've heard some very stirring song sung by some of these where the whole song is about the blood of the lamb, but how do they say it's applied? Well, in your physical healing and getting rid of all of your daily problems. If you just believe in the blood of the lamb, you're going to see your debt dissipate and you see the preacher up there just ranting and raving about how people could have their debt removed today if they'll just believe, going back and forth, just carrying on, all right? That's the mystery of iniquity. It looks to them like a

lamb. You cannot convince them that that's not Christ. You can't convince them. They say, "I know it's Christ," and they can't hear the voice of the dragon. They can't hear it.

But you see how Paul says it here in verse 7, "it doth already work." It was working in his day. "Only he who now let us will let until he be taken out of the way and then show that Wicked be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." And you say, "Well, what is that Wicked?" That's that wicked spirit. That's that wicked beast.

That's that one that has the appearance of a lamb but the voice of a dragon. "Even him who's coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." Do you see how this relates to Revelation 13? "And with all," what? "Deceivableness." We could be reading Revelation 13 here. "Of unrighteousness," for whom? "Them that perish." Them that perish. The Lord's not going to leave his own to be deceived. He's going to call out everyone that he's redeemed. Do you know what? That's why we worship Christ in truth. That's the only reason, because we have to say we were born under the very same influence of this beast, "But God," but God. "Because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved."

"And for this cause," look at here, "God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie." Why do people stay in it? Well, the Lord's left them to a strong delusion that they should believe a lie and, "That they all might be damned who believe not the truth." So the difference between that supposed lamb that men hold to and the true lamb, there's a difference. For years I held to a supposed lamb, but it was a lamb that I helped. He did his part, I did my part. That's how I was taught. That's how I was raised. I was a product of this beast until the Lord was pleased to open my eyes and bring me out, you see?

But it says who "had pleasure in unrighteousness." People, they don't want to bow to the righteousness because they have pleasure in their own righteousness, self-righteousness, but God calls it unrighteousness because it's filthy rags. It's filthy rags. The only righteousness that God has ever accepted for the salvation of a sinner is that which the Lord Jesus Christ worked out and based upon his finished work, God imputed to their account. And that's why they're caused to believe because it's been established on their behalf. So you see, I believe that's the setting here.

Now let's just come back here to Revelation 13. I want to show you some things in the time that we have here that I hope will be of some help to you. But the first thing in verse 11, as we noted, it has the appearance of a lamb but the voice of a dragon. Now again, if you go back and read some of the Reformers and some of the subsequent commentators, they'll always try to identify this one as the Pope. You go back and read some of the old writings that they don't get beyond the Pope. This all has to do with the Pope. And I understand why they saw it that way in their day, because quite honestly, the Catholic Church was very prominent and some of these were being persecuted themselves, losing their homes and families as a result of the Church's power. And so they see, and again, if you stop and think about even the Pope that's here today, I don't want to minimize this: he is of the spirit of Antichrist, all right, the same spirit of this beast, especially when you

consider that he calls himself the Vicar of Christ. Now all other traditions aside, you know what that word Vicar means? Go look it up. It's a Latin word which actually means the substitute. So he is there in Rome sitting in that power, again, with the same tentacles of that first beast and putting himself over, but today in a very docile way. When he goes around, there's over 800 million people following this man. He's got more people under him than a lot of countries do. In fact, if you ever want to go to the Vatican, which I don't know why I would, but you have to get a passport to get in there. It's an entity of itself, you see, but he has set himself up with this power and authority and people are glad to give it to him. You see those masses out there waiting sometimes in the rain and the storm and all for one little view of this man to come to the window and there they are just flashing away, flashing away. And he's doing a sign of the cross and blessing them and talking in a language they don't even understand, but they assume he's blessing them.

Do you realize that term hocus pocus is really a Latin term that developed out of the priests saying whatever they say? I wish I could say it in Latin that way. When they pronounce their little spell over the elements of their mass, they believe that actually by that word it actually turns into the blood of Christ. It actually becomes, it's a magical séance and that's how that word hocus pocus has come into development. Masses of people that are caught up with this sort of thing, all right?

So again, some would identify. my problem is uniquely with the Pope, but there's the blindness because I'll tell you, there's Baptist Pope's, there's Presbyterian Pope's, there's Episcopalian Pope's, there's Pentecostal Pope's. It goes worldwide, small and great and the deception is in thinking that it's them, not me. That's the deception. There's Sovereign Grace Pope's. If you want to get on the internet and type in the word Sovereign Grace, you can read until the cows come home, but you will be astonished at what is being purported under the name Sovereign Grace out there. It's unbelievable. It's unbelievable. What it is, it's any who purport and hold to any sort of doctrine that gives lip service to the Lamb, lip service to Christ, and yet mixes it with all sorts of works and ceremonies, the will of man. What's the difference? What's the difference? That's what it all comes down to.

I'll tell you, we dare not limit this to any one man, or any one religion, or any one organization, or any one faith, but it pertains to anyone that takes the name of Christ and professes to promote his cause and yet is not founded upon the singular solitary message of salvation conditioned on Christ alone. You know, people will go a certain distance with you. They'll say, "Well, ours is conditioned on Christ. We believe, you know, Christ is the foundation of what we believe." You see, it's like a lamb but when you get down to actually asking them, "You mean all the glory in election belongs to Christ?" "Oh, you believe in election? No, I don't believe in election." All of a sudden, the wedge is being driven. "You mean all the glory in redemption that when Christ laid down his life, he actually redeemed everyone for whom he died?" "Well, no, I don't believe that. I believe there's some he died for that ended up in hell." The wedge is getting bigger, isn't it?

It has the semblance of a lamb and many are deceived by it, but in the end, it's the voice of a dragon and you can go right on down to our justification, our sanctification. There's a lot of people that they'll say, "Yes, Christ is, we believe he's our justification, but to make

it effectual, you've got to believe, you've got to do something." That's not what the scripture say. Being justified out through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. You can't separate those two. If he redeemed you, he justified you. He put away your sin and it's a settled matter. You see, that's what this is to make salvation in any degree dependent on man's will, or man's work, or man's worship, or man's walk is to follow what this beast symbolizes and you need to be delivered. The Lord needs to give you eyes to see it, know the difference.

Do you know what it means to be a reprobate? I know we use that term all the time as if that man, that he's a reprobate, he's going to end up in hell. The word reprobate in the original actually means without discernment. That's what we all were when we first were born in this world. We didn't have any discernment. We didn't know the difference between truth and error. We thought we did and then it took the Lord opening our eyes and causing us to see. That's what the word reprobate means and that's what the Lord has to do, he has to take reprobate sinners and give them eyes to see and ears to hear, to hear the voice of the Lamb and not follow one who's a semblance of a lamb and yet whose voice is really that of a dragon, all right?

So that's what we see first. Secondly, and here in this text in Revelation 13, it has a cross-cultural, cross-societal, worldwide influence. I was naive enough to think that when I first went to Africa as a missionary, I could find a place where somehow all the tentacles of false religion weren't there. I placed myself in a pretty backward area of the world for about five years, and from day one, I was surprised. Right across the street from our house, where we settled in, was this little group that called their leader the Powabah(sp). And every morning you'd hear this ding, ding, ding at five o'clock. Everybody was supposed to gather in the church building. They would line up. He was all dressed in white, representing purity. When you talked to him, he represented himself as a servant of Christ. And they had respect for the Bible, even to the point of idolatry, because they never opened it. All they did was wrap it in a white linen. They wrapped it in a white linen. No one was allowed to touch it. And he would place himself in front of all of his followers and once everybody was lined up, they would go singing and they had a name for Jesus in their language, you could actually discern it as they were talking, but they would march in with candles and this Bible wrapped and they'd go in and he'd put it right down there on the pulpit in front of him on a table in front of him and then stand there and talk to people about everything and anything. And when I first got there, you know, he would tell me that, "I believe in Jesus." I've been here before you were. All these things that, but you could see that the darkness and delusion of his own mind.

This sort of thing repeats itself over and over but you see here in verses, well, particularly in verse 16, "he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." All right. This is what I want us to look at here as we wrap this up in verses 16 through 18. The followers of this beast's works religion, false religion, they're marked or branded on their foreheads and on their right hands. All right. Now there's a lot of amusing interpretations that are circulating that I consider nothing more than urban legend. You get those emails, don't you? Somebody saying here's one and it really looks real. You know, somebody's missing and they give you all the stuff or somebody is dying of cancer and they pass this on so everybody can

see it. And then you go to that famous website, Scopes, and look it up and it's just an urban legend, someone sent it to float it. There's a lot of urban legends out there about the mark of the beast, all right? But let me just see if I can help us here because I don't believe that we can interpret this as any particular individual or any outward visible sign that's going to be either tattooed on the forehead or the hand, or now in the day of modern technology, somehow I've been reading some things where they're saying that now they've got the means of putting it inside your blood with a microchip they can shoot in there and they're going to start doing this with every baby. So now all of a sudden this is the mark of the beast. Beware. That's not what this is.

I believe in order to understand the mark of the beast, we have to remember, notice here that it was put on everyone. Verse 16, "he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand." Now when it says "all," obviously it's not talking about those that are the elect of God. So again, "all" doesn't necessarily mean all, but all kinds of people, all kinds of men. I believe it's a mark that shows subjection to a master. It's like you brand a cow, you're putting a mark on it, it belongs to somebody.

What this is, people willingly take this mark to themselves and are subject to a master and what it involves is worship, false worship. You say, "How do you know that?" Look over in Revelation 14:9, "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image." So that's what it is to take this mark, it's a form of worship, false worship, "and receive his mark in his forehead and in his hand." That's what it's all about.

You can also see that over in Revelation 20:4. Look in Revelation 20:4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast," in other words, had refused to identify with false religion just like we're called to do today, all right? "Neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." All right.

So it's a, it's a mark but the second thing I'd have you to note involves false religion. The second thing I'd have you note is that it is a mark and not as believers are sealed. There's a difference. We've been sealed by the Holy Spirit. That means when God chose us and put us in Christ and Christ died for us and the Spirit has come and called us and set us apart, there is a sealing unto the day of redemption. He'll not lose one. But a mark, that's something you put on the body for a time. It's outward. It's outward. What it describes is men's profession, men's profession and not the truth.

Now there's a lot that could be said here, but here I believe is the deception: a seal is for protection, but this mark is for destruction. Unless the Lord, unless it's one of the Lord's that he's bought and that he will draw to himself, they will go to their death with this mark on their forehead, which has to do with their thinking, their mind, you cannot talk them out of it. And on their right hand, that's what they do, that's works. That's how they go to their death, thinking that somehow that profession they made in their mind and the

works, because that's what it is, it's a believe and do religion. Just believe this and then do this. Believe this and do this. Where do you believe? Right here, mark on the forehead. What do you do? Get out that hand, start supporting these works and ministries and all these things, labor.

The mark is on the head and on the right hand but, dear friends, that's far from faith. I'll just say this about this and then I'll be done. Faith, true faith is a Spirit-wrought persuasion with respect to Christ and his person and work as the only hope of salvation. In that, that we have been sealed and that's where we stay. Whereas the mark of the beast is a profession. There's a difference between a persuasion and a profession. It's just a mark. Men wear it. They put it on their trucks. They wear it on their, you know, all these people fighting 666 and yet they've got the marks right on their trucks, their big old t-shirts that tell people who they think they are. It's an outward thing. It has nothing to do with the truth and it's based partly on a notion of Christ, that's that lamb, but primarily founded on man's works. What are you doing for the Lord? What have you done for him? You've heard that expression, only one life soon will be passed, only what's done for Christ will last. That's the mark of the beast. It's the mark of the beast. It's not what's done for Christ that'll last, it's what Christ has done that will last. And I know some people think you're being hard, but you're just telling them the truth.

Faith, secondly, stands in the righteousness of God imputed in Christ and his finished work at Calvary. I keep insisting on that. But the mark of the beast, again the mark is superficial, it's on the outward, the mark of the beast stands in a righteousness that man must produce, that man comes up with in order either to initiate salvation or to earn it or to maintain it. But it's all mark, and it's obvious. It's on men's foreheads and it's in their right hand. It's in their right hand.

But thirdly, faith stands in the witness of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the heart by the word. It's not outward, it's inward. The mark of the beast is that which fixes the attention on men's words, on men's works, on men's organizations, on men's will, on ceremonies, on traditions, and it's fixed in their mind and it's fixed in the works of their hand.

That's why it's called here coming back to Revelation 13:18, "Here is wisdom." I told you I was going to tell you who the beast was and what the mark is. This is it. "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man." Anything that man has to do with, with regard to either earning salvation, initiating it, people saying well first you've got to take the first step and then God will do the rest, mark of the beast. Or maintaining it, Christ died but now you've got to do something to sanctify yourself. That's true Christ started it but now you finish it. All that kind of language is the mark of the beast. "It's the number of man, six, six, six." You know math. It's not 7. It's always 6. It's always imperfect and no matter how many 6's you add on to it, it's still going to be imperfect.

Well, I pray the Lord will bless us as we've considered this together and the Lord's delivered you. Thank him. Thank him because it's by his grace and if he hasn't, I pray he will. I pray by his grace and mercy and the bloodshed of Christ he'll give you eyes to see and behold the true Lamb and not a semblance of a lamb that has a voice of a dragon.