

COMMITMENT AND COMPROMISE

Part 5 of Understanding the Times. Revelation 13:1-18.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 18, 2023.

TOTAL COMMITMENT

Either Jesus is worth our total commitment, or he's not worth any commitment at all.

- First century Christians were tempted to compromise their faith, so are we:
 - Governments and powerful corporations
 - Communities
 - Employers, employees and unions
 - Colleges and schools
 - Friends and family
 - Progressive churches and church members
 - The entertainment and news media
 - Influencers on social media

REVELATION 13: THE TWO BEASTS

The beast from the sea symbolizes godless governments - verses 1-10.

- Satan is operating behind godless governments and institutions.
- The background is Daniel 7 and Daniel's uncompromising faith.
- True Christians will endure in faith at any cost.

The beast from the earth symbolizes false religions - verses 11-18.

- This is the False Prophet in Revelation 16:13; 20:10.
- False religions are a front for Satan.
- False religious are deceptive and coercive.

FIVE INSIGHTS ABOUT COMMITMENT AND COMPROMISE

1. Satan is active in the world through two entities.

- Beast from the sea: Godless governments and other institutions.
- Beast from the earth: False and deceptive religions.
- They use coercion and deception to achieve Satan's aims.

2. Satan empowers godless governments and false religions.

- Satan's aim is to keep people away from the true God, and to destroy Christianity.

3. The people of the world are captive to this satanic strategic.

- Political and cultural movements that promote and celebrate godless ideologies and lifestyles.
- Self-worship that declares independence from God.

4. Genuine Christians will live like Daniel.

- He was not deceived by pagan religion.
- He was willing to die rather than obey the government's commands to worship false gods. He knew government is not ultimate.

5. God knows what's going on.

- We're not alone in this battle for faith.

FIVE WAYS TO STAY COMMITTED TO CHRIST

1. I will review my faith.

- Am I willing to follow Jesus at any cost?
- Do I agree with Peter's claim? Either Jesus is worth our total commitment, or he's not worth any commitment at all.

2. I will rev up my faith.

- I need to build into my life practices, habits, and routines that keep Jesus the main thing.
- I need fire, intensity and a compelling reason to stay faithful to Jesus.

3. I will be realistic about my faith.

- Intensity is an absolute necessity.
- A casual faith with cave and compromise.

4. I will remember the content of my faith.

- The Christian faith makes audacious claims.
- I learn what I believe so I can discern Satanic lies and deception.

5. I will repair my faith.

- My faith will grow old, tired, and weak without routine maintenance.
- Carry out regular faith-checkups. What deceptions have crept in, what are the pressure points to compromise?

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 13.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.

- What evidence is there to support Revelation 13's claim that there are powerful entities (governments, corporations, religions, etc) empowered by Satan to derail or destroy Christians and the Christian faith?
- What advice do you have for a Christian who is under pressure at work to compromise their faith or risk losing promotions or their job?
- How realistic is it to develop a faith that is total commitment to Jesus? What are the roadblocks to building that kind of intensity? What resources are there to develop that kind of faith?
- What practices help you rev up your faith? Do you agree with Peter that all of us need to repair our faith or risk faith fatigue and even faith failure?

Pray together. Be bold.

Pray for a commitment to Christ that will not compromise under pressure.

Preparation for Next Sunday

- Watch this video interview with Dr. Al Mohler:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=or3h4ILGFL4
- Read a helpful commentary on Revelation 14:
www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-24