May 9/10, 2009
"Jesus for President"
Pastor Mark Burch
Revelation 12 - 15 (Summary)

Revelation 14:12 "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."
2 Corinthians 11:2 "I promised to you one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him."
I John 2:15 "Love not the world or anything in the world…"

SERMON NOTES:

Deuteronomy 6:6 & 8 *"These commands are to be on your hearts…tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."*

Home Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. There's a lot to dig into in this text! It's an election week – and our text deals with corrupt political powers…talk for just a few moments about what a Christian's response should be when the government of the day moves out from under the blessing of God.
2. Has anyone in your group had the experience of living in a totalitarian state – or an openly hostile, anti-Christ political system? Let them share some of their journey.
3. How do we hold a respectful and prayerful support of our political leaders in tension with a healthy skepticism of political powers? How does one navigate the active involvement in the things of "state" while maintaining first allegiance to the kingdom of God?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Scan through Revelation 12-13-14-15:4 but read in particular 13:11-18.
5. Talk about the "trinity" of evil – the dragon and the two beasts. If the dragon is intent on waging war on the children of the king, and he uses both political and religious institutions to do his work, what state of alert should we be on?
4. Talk about the mark of the beast – 13:16. How have you understood this text? Compare it to 14:9; & 14:1. Both Christ and anti-Christ want to "mark" their people. Refer back to the image of Deuteronomy 6:6-8 and the life that is "marked" by the word of God. If the forehead refers to thinking/ideologies/and worldview and if the hand refers to actions – what is the implication of taking either "mark."
5. These 3 chapters all form one scene. The trinity of evil and the perseverance of the saints in the face of evil. Read 13:10; 14:4; 14:12 & 15:2. Now think back to the seven letters and the continuous call to persevere – to hang in there – to hold on! Talk about the implications of the "nike" word!
8. After the darkness of these three evil characters – the dragon and his two henchmen – we are caught up again to the worship in heaven. A picture of the "redeemed" singing a new song – Worship! And the angels preaching the gospel and calling on the Lord of the Harvest! How do we need this encouragement! Even in the darkest days of the empire – God is still on the throne.

Taking It Home (Application)

9. Talk about our political realities today. How would we recognize a governing body that was being manipulated by the dragon? What would/should our response be?
10. Pray for the elections taking place this week. God has called us to be responsible citizens of the state – while maintaining our first allegiance to His kingdom. Pray for His influence in our provincial halls of power!