PASTOR: Kip McCormick **DATE:** November 3, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up SERMON: Eternal Choices

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:1-20 (NASB) SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Hebrews 12:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Matthew 13:24-30

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: Our choices have eternal consequences. Run the race well.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- There's something about a song.
- We all need a song. We all need a purpose. What's your song? (Pastor Kris Langham, Through the Word Bible App, Revelation 14)
- The 144,000 are sealed and sent, just like us.
- From the highest and brightest point on earth, all people will hear the gospel:
 - 1. Repent.
 - 2. Choose Jesus, not Satan.
 - 3. Believe in your heart that Christ died for you and God raised Him from the dead and you'll be saved.
 - 4. Fear God.
- Babylon the Great: The worldwide economic, political and religious system of the Anti-Christ.
- Go along with the world = going away from God. There's no middle ground.
- "Drinking the cup" is symbolic image of God's judgment, poured out from heaven.
- Four announcements in this passage: 1) the gospel; 2) judgment; 3) Doom, despair and agony on me; 4) "Hang in there, Christians."
- Our perseverance is shown by the way we choose to live and the words we choose to speak.
- This first harvest could be a harvest of *all* people. Believers who hear the message of Revelation 14:14-16 should be encouraged; those who take the mark of the beast, sucks to be you.
- Grape harvest: A picture of judgment.
- The second harvest is one of divine judgment.



(OVER)

CHALLENGE:

- Consider the choices you're making
 - As a Christ follower, personal relationships, profession (or to-be profession), choices of Character, Honor, Integrity and Faith
 - How are you reflecting Christ right where you are no matter what your circumstances?
- Consider the race you're running
 - Who's running with you, what's your pace (it's a marathon, not a sprint)?
 - \circ $\;$ Whom are you encouraging in their race or inviting along to run with you?
 - For some of you, are you even running the right race? In other words, have you "found your song?"
 - If not, take time to dig into these challenges.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What portion of today's teaching challenged you?
- What's the significance of the name of God on the foreheads of the 144,000?
- How can we apply the story of the 144,000 to our lives?
- Kip quoted Kris Langham with the question, "What's your song?" Discuss with your group "your song" (purpose). Where do you struggle in finding it and living it out?
- What happens when Christ isn't the main chorus?
- In verses 6-13, God sends several messages. What are they and why are they important?
- What do those messages show us about God's character?
- What is the significance of Babylon the Great?
- Verse 12 points out that we need perseverance of faith in a life of difficulty. Talk about your challenges right now with that as well as any successes you're experiencing in that.
- Who do you think is reaping? Who do you think are the reaped?
- In the last passage of today's teaching, we see God's wrath. What does His wrath reveal about His character?
- Discuss the challenge Kip gave in the sermon.
- As we enter the last third of the book of Revelation, reflect to the time we first began our study in May. Discuss with the group what you've learned and identify places in which you still struggle.

Sources: Jason Dexter (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); **Gotquestions.org**; **Gary Hamrick** (Cornerstone Chapel, Revelation Series); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App** (Kris Langham); **Warren Wiersbe** (The Wiersbe Commentary, New Testament).