

PASTOR: Kip McCormick
DATE: November 24, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up
SERMON: Spiritual Adultery

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 17:1-18 (NASB)
SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Genesis 11:1-9; 1 John 4:1;
Philippians 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 5:10; Colossians 1:17

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: God will not force His love upon us. However, if we choose something or someone else to give our adoration, praise and worship, we will pay an eternal price.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Chapter 17 describes God’s judgment of the religious system called “Babylon.”
- Chapter 18 describes God’s judgment of the political/commercial/economic system called “Babylon.”
- The tower of Babel would symbolize humanity’s greatness over God’s greatness.
- Three foundations of man-made religion: 1) Rejection of God’s promises (faithfulness); 2) Rebellion against God’s commands (disobedience); and 3) Refusal of God’s grace (legalism) (Chuck Swindoll)
- Babylon: The birthplace of false religion. The deathplace of false religion.
- “Harlot” is the false religious system.
- The harlot makes religion look pretty and she’s riding on the back of political power and the object of worship, the Beast.
- Satan is under and controlling every false religion.
- Greatest movements of love and generosity have come from Christians.
- *“At the very heart of our (Christian) view of reality is a man who died for his enemies, praying for their forgiveness.” (Keller)*

- **Turbulence!** Revelation 17:9-13 Possible Meanings of 7 Heads, 10 Horns
 - Seven Heads. Seven world empires that have stood in opposition to God.
 - Five from the past: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medio-Persia, and Greece.
 - One is in the present (John’s time) Rome.
 - One will arise in the future – Babylon, empire of the Anti-Christ.
 - Seven Mountains. Rome was built on seven hills, so when you say a city was built on seven hills/mountains, you’d be referring to a miraculous city like Rome.
 - Seven Kings. Rulers over seven kingdoms. The Anti-Christ is one of the seven. His first kingdom is just as bad as the former kings. He’s assassinated. He’s resurrected. Now he’s the eighth king.
 - Eighth King. After his “death” and “resurrection,” the Anti-Christ will establish that eighth empire known as Babylon – the religious system and political-economic-commercial system that worships him and supports him.
 - Ten Horns. A global, ten-nation federation that rules the world for a short time (“one hour”) and then the Anti-Christ, who is one of the rulers of those nations, will reign.
- End of one-world religion. This is the nature and outcome of evil. Evil eats itself.

(OVER)

CHALLENGE: Practice Daily “Marriage” Maintenance

- **Spiritual Disciplines** help you grow in your faith and protect your marriage to Christ, *but you must have the right attitude!*
 - A longing to be transformed as you spend time with Jesus
 - Prayer and solitude
 - God’s Word: Read, study, memorize scripture, put it to work in your life.
 - Fasting and worshiping
 - Do something each day to grow in your faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who or what is the great prostitute? What is the significance of her riding on the Beast?
- How is this one-world religion like a prostitute?
- In this one-world religion, Christians will be targeted. What are some movements and ideologies afoot that could undermine Christianity?
- Read Micah 6:8. While social justice can be a good thing, how can it become its own religion/ideology and overtake the gospel, which is for everyone? (In other words, how can a possible good thing become something dangerous and antithetical to the gospel?)
- Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and Matthew 5:10. How do you think Christians will be persecuted? How have we been persecuted historically?
- We see in today’s teaching that evil kills itself – in the end, Satan destroys this one-world religion so that everyone will worship him (through the anti-Christ). What does this say about God’s sovereignty? (Hint: Read Colossians 1:17)
- What religions of this world do you see competing with Jesus? What idols do you have to fight off in your own life so that Jesus has no competition?
- Describe in your own words “spiritual adultery.” Give examples of how it can start small and then overtake your life. How can it happen collectively in a country, region, the world?
- Discuss Kip’s challenge with your group. Where do you struggle? Where have you had success? Why is your attitude important in this?

Sources: **Voddie Baucham** (Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism’s Looming Catastrophe); **Tom Constable** (Constable Notes); **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; **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App** (Kris Langham); **Warren Wiersbe** (The Wiersbe Commentary, New Testament).