



## Sermon Discussion Guide<sup>1</sup> *Rev 13:11-18* | Kevin DeYoung

“The Mark of the Beast”  
Sunday Morning, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. When is the last time you were fooled by a counterfeit?
2. **endurance/faith and wisdom:** Look at the calls to action after each of the beasts.<sup>2</sup> Why do you think *endurance and faith* is after the first? Why is *wisdom* after the second?
3. **shepherd's voice:** Read John 10:27-28. How do these verses relate to Revelation 13:11-18? (esp. v 11)
4. **counterfeit:** False religions aren't so obvious. They aim at counterfeiting that which is true. What are some examples of worldviews or religions seem like Christianity, but ultimately miss the mark?
5. **persecution:** What does soft persecution look like for you in this stage of life? Can you think of a time you or a loved one were criticized for following Christ?
6. **666:** The beast claims to be God, yet “falls devilishly short.”
  - a. What are some other explanations of 666 that you have heard?
  - b. How does the Bible's use of numbers help us understand the meaning of the number of the beast (666)?
7. **horizontal/vertical:** Christianity cuts horizontally, false ideologies cut vertically.<sup>3</sup> What did Kevin mean by that, and how does that help us to discern truth from error?
8. **wisdom:** Kevin gave 3 questions to use for diagnosing our heart's motive for something.<sup>4</sup> Did any one of these questions grab your attention?
9. **animating principle:** It's easy to claim Christ with our lips, while something else truly *animates* us. This is important to think about since it has everything to do with worship. If you had to pinpoint one thing that would rival Christ's place in your life, what would it be?

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<sup>1</sup> SDGs are put together by Small Groups Ministry to aid group discussion. They are available every week on the [small groups page](#) of the church website. Please send questions or feedback to [calebjohnson@christcovenant.org](mailto:calebjohnson@christcovenant.org).

<sup>2</sup> 13:10,18. Endurance and faith for the first beast, and wisdom for the second.

<sup>3</sup> The Bible says the most prominent distinction that exists is between a holy God and unholy people. Counterfeits ideologies often say that the biggest distinction in the world is between types of people.

<sup>4</sup> See outline below.

## General Outline

- I. Introduction
  - a. 2 beasts:
    - i. The political sphere: perversion of good government
    - ii. The religious sphere: perversion of true worship
- II. Exposition
  - a. Counterfeit Lamb (v 11)
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast an accomplice to the 1<sup>st</sup> (v 12)
  - c. Great signs (v 13)
  - d. Persuades the world the beast is truly God (v 15)
  - e. Hand/forehead sign (v 16)
  - f. 666 (v 18)
    - i. 6 reasons against the Nero theory
- III. Application: “wisdom is *necessary*”
  - a. 3 questions to ask yourself:
    - i. **Peer Pressure:** “Am I going along with an idea, practice, or behavior because I feel like I have to or else I’ll lose my job, reputation, friends, or even my life.”
    - ii. **Glory:** “Does this experience, passion, or religious fervor lead me ultimately to glory in man instead of God?”
    - iii. **Christ:** “Does this lead my head and my heart closer to Jesus?”
  - b. 1 Jn 5:19-21. “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

### Suggested questions for kids

- From which book of the Bible is Pastor Kevin preaching?
- What do you remember from the sermon?
- Can we be confident even though the devil doesn’t like Christians? Why?

### Prayer for the Church

- That we would be wise in discerning between truth and falsehood in our day. That we would know our Shepherd’s voice.
- That we would endure by faith in the face of persecution.
- That we would look to God alone for her provision and salvation rather than the state.