

(1) Have you ever encountered what was obviously false teaching in some local church where you attended? What was the nature of that teaching? What was the effect it had on the life and ministry of the church and the people in it? Why do you think the NT warns us so frequently about the threat of false teaching? What would you say to those who argue that it isn't that big of a deal and we should just all "get along"?

(2) Who or what do you think the "earth beast" is in Revelation 13? What view have you held in the past? What is your opinion regarding my suggestion that the so-called "false prophet" is the embodiment of all false teachers and heretics throughout the course of church history?

(3) Read Revelation 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; and 22:4. What impact do these texts have on how you understand the "mark of the beast"? What are the reasons why this "mark" is probably not a literal tattoo of some sort or a computer chip implant?

(4) Just for fun, play around with Gematria. If A = 100, B = 101, C = 102, and so on, take each of your last names and see if anyone in your group is the Beast! What is the numerical equivalent of your name?

(5) What is the practical take-away from Revelation 13.1-18? How has it changed your perspective on life in the world today?