**Revelation 14 and how it relates to chapter 15-18**

**Remember who leads us in Worship – The Lamb leads us on Mount Zion - Revelation 14:1-3**

* The Lamb and the Beast are contrasted – The beast is on the shore of the sea, on shaking ground, and the Lamb is on the Mighty and firm, most important Mountain of the Biblical story, Mount Zion! Jesus is leading the redeemed in Worship – what a picture!
* Affirming further for me, that this book is very much about our worship and who gets our hope and allegiance.

**Don’t defile yourselves - Revelation 14:4-5**

* The lamb is followed by “virgins.” We are either to read this as a puritan type situation, one that many of us have fallen short of, or is John pointing to something different?
* Since virginity was expected of young women approaching marriage, Revelation uses it as a metaphor for Christians who refrain from idolatry and other unfaithful practices, for they are well-suited to be the bride of the Lamb, (Craig Koester) Revelation 19:7-8

**Remember the Sermon, the Eternal Gospel - Revelation 14:6-7**

* Angels are preaching the “Eternal gospel “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
* In Revelation the good news focuses on the establishment of God’s reign and liberation from other powers that dominate the earth (Rev 11:15–18). The angel’s good news is eternal because God’s dominion is eternal, something that cannot be said of any earthly power, including Babylon or Rome, which was called the eternal city (Craig Koester)

**Remember God’s Victory in the Lamb and point the evil one to his future - Revelation 14:8**

 Babylon is fallen – Rome will one day fall, and the wider hope is that all nations will one day fall and meet their judgment

**Remember God’s Judgment is upon those who worship the beast - Revelation 14:9**

When we read this and think that God is unjust, we are far from the truth. Our judgments are not superior to His, and if God dismantles the world in a certain way, and starts new, that’s entirely up to him and his prerogative as the Creator God. See: Revelation 15:3-5, 16:5-7. ***The seven bowls are the working out of God’s justice in judgment upon those who worship the beast.*** The repeated emphasis on their lack of repentance indicates their true allegiance insofar as they blaspheme the living God (16:9 and 11). The stubborn refusal of those who worship the beast to ever flee from their destructive ways will result in their ultimate destruction, and God’s plan is Just and True.

**Revelation 14:12 - Remember to endure and keep faithful to Jesus**

**COME OUT OF HER** – Come out of the world, and the worship and allegiances to it, and give your life to Jesus Christ. Revelation 18:4-8

**Remember the power given us by the Lamb in his death**, to have victory in our own death for the sake of Jesus. We are blessed to die in the Lord. Death no longer has sting. **Revelation 14:13**

**SERMON: What’s easiest now, has terrible consequences later**.

Revelation 14 calls believers to loyalty to Jesus Christ. This chapter serves two purposes. For those who are persecuted, they are given hope for faithful endurance. For those who have compromised their faith and take the easy way, they are challenged to repent and return to God. For those who compromise their faith in Jesus, there is condemnation. For those who endure, they are called blessed.