

# **St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups.**

**May 30 2010**

**Focus: War in Heaven 2**

**Theme: Baptism promises Rev. 13. 1-4, Rev 14. 1-5, Hebrews 12. 1-2**



## **Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon**

**Revelation is particularly difficult for 4 reasons**

- 1. Our Western minds are so literal and we don't like symbolism  
Revelation is symbolic, mystical and often out of proportion.**
- 2. Revelation is dealing with future events that we don't know about. We have not experienced it yet**
- 3. Parts of Revelation are written for the suffering church ...and we are not suffering.**
- 4. It is supernatural and that goes against the grain with us. We like to look at the natural, scientific world.**

**In studying Revelation we need to concentrate on the things we can understand and build on those. We need to stand back and look at the whole picture.**

### **LINK UP WITH OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

- 1. I renounce evil.**

**John saw a vision and saw a beast rising up from the sea and a beast coming from the earth. These beasts personify evil. They are evil itself. The beast had power to make war against the saints, to conquer them. He had authority over the tribes, peoples, languages and nations.**

**In the last days there will be a special outbreak of the powers of evil. Sometimes this is associated with an individual who may be called the antichrist (see 1 John 2verse 18)It is this figure who is behind John's opening vision of Rev.13**

**Christians renounce evil in all its forms.**

- 2. I turn to Christ.**

**It is not enough merely to renounce evil. This leaves a God-shaped vacuum and we need to fill it with Christ, otherwise the evil may return.**

**I turn to Christ means that we give up our old life, our old values, our old behaviour patterns, we turn our lives right round, a U turn, and become followers of Christ. (conversion, coming to faith, becoming a disciple etc)**

**It is more than just following the Christian way, we need to be IN CHRIST.**

**Look at the beginning of chapter 14 and note the contrast. John sees the followers of The Lamb, the followers of Jesus, who had "his name and his father's name on their foreheads".(Rev 14.1)**

**144,000 is symbolic of completeness, all those who are In Christ.**

- 3. I repent of my sins**

**Repentance is a complete turning round, a change or reformation of life itself. It is not just an isolated act, it is ongoing. It is a change of mind that results in a change of action**

**We all need repentance when we compare our lives with the perfection of Jesus. We need to repent of sin as sin, not just of this thing or that we may have done wrong but of the whole gambit; the sin of our nature as well as the sin of our practice.**

**The book of revelation reminds us that time is running out. We need to make sure that we belong to that symbolic 144,000, that we have “turned to Christ” and accepted his sacrifice on the cross for us.**



## **Witness: Questions to discuss**

- 1. Last week we were asked to look for the powers of evil in the world today. Since then have you had any more thoughts on this ? What constitutes evil and what do we mean when we say we renounce it ?**
- 2. What does “turning to Christ” mean ?  
Is it a once off event? Do we need to keep doing it ?  
Does it happen suddenly or does it grow? Is it the same for everyone?  
Think about Saul/Paul’s experience.**
- 3. When Paul tells us we need to be “In Christ” is this different? How do we become In Christ?**
- 4. Do you think the end days have already begun ?**
- 5. How can we identify The Beast of chapter 13 ?**