



Scriptures and Doctrine :: False Teachers in our own Ranks

False Teachers in our own Ranks, on: 2017/8/5 13:56

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From a question-and-answer session with Dr. John MacArthur at Liberty University.

Question by a student...

" My question is once a person takes the mark is there any possibility of him coming to Christ?"

Answer by Dr. John MacArthur

" The question is if you were living in the tribulation period and you take the mark, in other words you identify with the beast's empire, will you still be able to be redeemed?

And I think the answer to that is yes. Yes. Otherwise there would be no salvation of anybody in the end of the tribulation. And you've got to have the salvation of folks in the end of the tribulation. You're going to have the Jews redeemed. You're going to have, according to Revelation chapter 7, an innumerable number of gentiles redeemed. And they can't be counted across the face of the earth. So I don't think the fact that someone takes that is a sentence to permanence.

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Acts 17:11

â€¢â€¢â€¢â€¢ Now these were born Noble minded than those in Thessalonica, but he received the word with great eagerness, Examining the Scriptures Daily to see whether these things were so. â€¢â€¢â€¢â€¢

Revelation 14:9-11

â€¢â€¢â€¢â€¢ Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

It's not only the prosperity preachers and the other charlatans who teach error. But it is also the most noted, respected Bible teachers in our own midst. Just because they have a certain theological system and have letters behind their names does not make them exempt from teaching error. If anything this makes them more dangerous. Because we do not recognize them as wolves in sheep's clothing. We trust them because we think they handle the scriptures capably. But in so doing they can bring error in without us even knowing it.

Let us be wise and discerning in these end times.

Bro Blaine

Re: False Teachers in our own Ranks - posted by docs (), on: 2017/8/5 19:37

Maybe he's not altogether a wolf in sheep's clothes just because he may be wrong on this issue. Wolves in the church maliciously prey on the innocent after knowingly beguiling them. Wrong as he may be on this issue and others I just don't see him as a wolf lying in wait to devour. That's all.

Re: who's who... - posted by savannah, on: 2017/8/5 21:11

Just because a man espouses an erroneous eschatological view such as dispensationalism, doesn't make him a wolf by necessity.

If that were so, there are whole packs of them surrounding the camp of the saints. You'd be entertaining wolves often, and unaware of it.

Pray for the peace of all those who are Jews inwardly by faith in the Messiah, Jesus. Amen.

Wolves - posted by Lysa (), on: 2017/8/5 21:32

Here's an excellent sermon by Carter Conlon titled, "Wolves"
<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=2158&commentView=itemComments>

Re: False Teachers in our own Ranks - posted by havok20x, on: 2017/8/6 0:10

I disagree with a lot of John MacArthur's eschatological view. I also disagree with things that other people on this forum have said--things that I believe are very plain in the scripture. Are they all wolves? Who here has perfect doctrinal understanding? Who in here has attained all there is to know in Christ through His Word. No one.

There are things my pastor has said that I find very wrong--but he does bear fruit and he does love the brethren and he does follow Jesus. He is not a wolf but we do not see eye to eye.

What do you have that you have not received. Why do you boast as if you have not received it? Why are we holding people to a standard that you yourself have not attained. It makes no sense. Even prominent people in the faith still have things to learn.

Can we PLEASE stop all this nonsense and only speak that which is necessary for edification? I don't feel edified reading things like this. Only discouraged because we keep drawing dividing line over dividing line over dividing line.

Think of how much more we would grow in Christ if we did that. Think of how much more our hearts would be set on Christ if we did that. Would we not be far more prepped for revival and serving Christ if we did that?

Re: Wolves - posted by lovejt (), on: 2017/8/6 0:59

Thanks for the message Lysa.

It's a good checkpoint to see if you have any wolf tendencies. We should check ourselves.

Re: A Strange Hypocrisy , on: 2017/8/6 8:37

I find there's a strange hypocrisy in this forum. If I had said in the original OP that Rick Warren or Rob Bell or Ken Copeland or Pope Francis had said one could take the mark during the tribulation and still be saved. Many in this forum would have denounced such teaching as false. And that such are false teachers. Even false prophets and wolves in sheep's clothing.

But because I call out one of your own. A man I'm sure that many in this forum honor and respect. The standard suddenly becomes different. I'm the one accused of being divisive. I'm the one accused of attacking a teacher you respect. When all I am trying to do is simply be Berean. Simply trying to examine John MacArthur's teaching in light of scripture.

What Dr. John MacArthur is teaching is not a matter of secondary importance. This is not a matter of non-essentials. But

this is a matter which could determine the destiny of one's soul.

Dr. John MacArthur has clearly answered that one can take the mark of the beast and be saved during the tribulation. This flies squarely in the face of scripture, Revelation 14:9-11. This is false teaching. This is heresy. This goes against what the historic church has believed and taught.

James tells us that the teacher will incur a stricter judgement. Doctor John MacArthur has widely influenced millions in this nation and around the world. Because there are those who believe we are in the end times. It would be quite easy for those to listen to Dr. MacArthur and say well it is alright to take the chip to survive and then I can repent at leisure and come to faith in Christ. This goes contrary to scriptures. We are warned what the consequences will be if one takes the mark and alligns themselves with Antichrist. For the mark will be a sign of loyalty to the Antichrist and ultimately to Satan. The consequences for those who take the mark will be the lake of fire.

At this point I must ask does anybody in the Forum believe this? Perhaps there are those in the forum who would agree with Dr. MacArthur that one can take the mark and still be saved. After all he has a doctorate behind his name. He has been to seminary. He is a Bible teacher and president of Master's Seminary. Thus he can be trusted. But to do so will bring condemnation to one's soul.

Some in this forum think I have a vendetta against Dr. John MacArthur because of my experiences with Calvinism. That is not correct. I only look at Dr. MacArthur because he is one of the foremost Bible teachers in America. Many look up to him. Many believe him to be infallible in his Doctrine. At one time I believed him to be infallible.

But if Dr. MacArthur is teaching error regarding the taking of the mark. What else is he teaching error on? The scriptures tell us that a little leaven leavens the whole loaf. People such as Rick Warren and Rob Bell have embraced erroneous teaching. Eventually the false teaching spread into the ministry of these men. Thus they were rendered ineffective in the kingdom.

At least John MacArthur has been up front where he stands regarding the taking of the mark. But I wonder how many of her pastors secretly believe that one can take the mark and still be redeemed during the tribulation. It would not surprise me if there were pastors that came out of Master's Seminary who believe what Dr. John MacArthur believes. And eventually will espouse this to their churches.

As I said in the OP it is easy to call out the hucksters and the charlatans among the charismaniacs. When we see the Kundalini Spirit and the clucking of chickens and the dog howling and the demonic laughter manifested in so called spirit-filled meetings we know there is something false here. One would heartily amen Dr. MacArthur and calling out the extreme charismatics.

But when Dr. MacArthur is teaching doctrine that is erroneous and false. When he is questioned in this forum. He is exempt. He can do no wrong. To call him out is divisive. Such is the strange hypocrisy in this forum.

Forum you say this is not edifying to read this. But I believe there are some of you who believe we are in the end times. Satan will increasingly bring about deception. We are warned in the gospels that he will try to deceive even the elect. And he will try to deceive the elect by having trusted noted Bible teachers espouse erroneous doctrine. Bible teachers that can be trusted because they have letters behind their name. Bible teachers that can be trusted because they hold to an orthodox theological system. Bible teachers that can be trusted because they have thousands of members in their church. Bible teachers that can be trusted because they lead seminaries that put out evangelical pastors.

Thus when one of these Bible teacher says that one can take the mark and be saved in the tribulation. Then it stands to reason he must know what he's talking about because he knows the Bible.

Forum beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing. These are dark times of deception that cry for discernment. Let us have the mind of Christ and examine everything in light of His word. Even if the Bible teacher has letters behind their name. Even if the Bible teacher is Dr. John MacArthur.

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2017/8/6 11:06

Quote:
-----havok20x....There are things my pastor has said that I find very wrong--but he does bear fruit and he does love the brethren and he does follow Jesus. He is not a wolf but we do not see eye to eye.

This is why my only shepherd is Jesus Christ, I've never disagreed with him on anything, nor has he ever been wrong yet. :-)

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons"

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2017/8/6 12:12

Most people here who have objected a bit to labeling Dr. MacArthur as a wolf in sheep's clothing have also said that there are points that they disagree with him on. So Dr. MacArthur is not being handed a blank check of approval. Posting and forcefully saying things like the American church has forfeited its right to heaven because they voted for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton is not sound either as far as correct doctrine versus error goes. Dr. MacArthur, not being given a blank check, never had said anything along those preposterous lines. How one is saved is not something of secondary importance either. So we all perhaps need to pay closer attention to what we say or teach. If a person is wrong on certain points we still don't need to see them after the flesh.

Peace. No need to build a fire here.

Re: False Teachers in our own Ranks - posted by Pnutty (), on: 2017/8/6 13:23

As an aside

Hey Blaine,

Do you still have my email address? Can you write to me? You no longer have your email under your profile.

Got a question about AR.

Thanks.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/6 15:51

It is only an issue if it is a literal mark. If its not there is no issue.

Is there any other place in scripture where a person who does something is forever damned with no hope of redemption? I am not talking about rejecting the Lord until they die- I am talking about someone doing something and the action itself damns them for all eternity?

The worst sins imaginable were committed in the pages of scripture by various individuals who ultimately found forgiveness when they repented.

That is why I have a hard time believing that the action of taking a literal mark is an automatic stamp of damnation.

Now, if the mark is simply symbolic of an acquiescence to an evil world system and persistent refusal to side with God, it makes much more sense.

Some respected commentators from the past felt that the acceptance of the mark was throwing in ones lot with roman catholicism and the popes. They may very well be right.

And Bear, why does it really matter what JMac believes on this topic? As you know there are an embarrassingly large number of different end times views; are all those that propose views that differ from yours false teachers or wolves in sheep clothing? Of course not. I don't agree with the end times view of the church I attend- at all. I just get over it. I don't think the pastor is a wolf in disguise.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2017/8/6 17:01

Brother Blaine,

I am far from perfect. You'll have to forgive me of being so forceful in the distant past. I, like every child of God, am being renewed and transformed day by day.

John MacArthur is indeed one of my own. He is a brother in Christ. You are also one of my own--a brother in Christ.. I don't agree with him on this point, but he has yet to enter glory either. He only knows in part right now, just like the rest of us.

I am not asking that we don't discuss these issues, but why malign anyone along the way. Does it matter who thinks what so much as we learn the truth?

What would be more effective for the body of Christ? Calling out every false prophet one by one, issue by issue or teaching the truth and allowing us to discern all teachings and all spirits?

Re: , on: 2017/8/6 18:07

Thanks havok20x, I share your concern.

We just keep going round in circles with this topic.

Besides that some might be interested to know that most of the Reformers, and also others like John Wesley did not have the same "end time" views as we have today. Probably nobody here would call John Wesley a "wolf" Those who think they have the right end time doctrines should be a bit careful, nobody is 100% correct

Quote: "Can we PLEASE stop all this nonsense and only speak that which is necessary for edification?"
Amen. May we focus more on Christ and grow in Him.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2017/8/7 2:25

So what type of persons would be included in the following:

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

It seems this was of great concern for the Apostles as there are many such references in the scriptures....

If we can identify the areas that are nonnegotiable then perhaps we could reconcile this issue?

Reading over the posts, there are many aspects that I can readily agree to tho brother Bear does make a valid point that there is an inconsistency in our overall application of discernment. Some get a pass, others the benefit of the doubt, while others get no margin for error due to their reputation or the reputation of their church family or denomination.... this doesn't seem to be as clearly demarcated by Holy Spirit as it was for Peter, Paul, etc...

I mean we are all partakers of the same bread so why are we so inconsistent in these matters?

It's like we all have differing places where we break fellowship, some are tight and some are loose which means we aren't on the same page and yet in the Acts church they were of one accord... is it not incumbent upon us all to submit to Holy Spirit's direction? And surely He isn't acting inconsistently in His watch over us.... so what gives?

All who are led by the same spirit should come to the same conclusion, no?

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2017/8/7 7:00

Well, the bible is crystal clear about this matter.

https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=mark+of+the+beast&qs_version=KJV

Warning to McArthur and Co. better take this serious

Revelation 22:18-20 (KJV)

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/7 9:18

RE : /// This goes against what the historic church has believed and taught.///

I have not found any continuity concerning eschatological beliefs of any kind in and through Church History.

As far as the early writings, did they not believe that there was a correlation with Nero ?

<https://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/666-old.html>

Re: Mark of the beast - posted by StirtUp (), on: 2017/8/7 10:06

Just to take us down a side track, without offending any teacher or their followers :)

I am by no means a master of Revelation revelation, if you get my drift?

I usually read it with awe and wonder, amazement and joy for the privilege of knowing such an awesome God and Savior.

However, just a thought: Does this mark, received (seemingly not forced) not refer us back to Jesus words, that you can not serve both God and Mammon (either you serve God wholeheartedly and receive His reward, or money, world system and receive its reward:judgement)

See Elliot's Commentary below, short and sweet, and makes sense to me:

"Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

(9) And the third angel . . . Better, And another angel, a third, followed them, saying in a loud voice, If any man worship the wild beast and his image, and a mark upon his forehead or upon his hand, he also himself shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mingled pure (in full strength, undiluted, e.g., "He shall have judgment without mercy that hath showed no mercy," James 2:13) in the cup of his indignation, and shall be tormented in fire, &c., &c. This third angel naturally follows the other two, which describe the powers which are in conflict: the word of God, and the Babylon of the world; the gospel will triumph; Babylon is doomed; hence comes the warning that men should not identify themselves with the city of worldliness, falsehood, and sin. The reference to the wild beast, the image, and the mark, carries us back to the last chapter, and shows us that Babylon is only another aspect of the work of God's enemies: it is the city of the world-power. The warning not to receive the mark is a declaration that man, individual man, is responsible: there is no necessity for his receiving the mark, the hall-mark of a cowardly connivance at wrong-doing, or for setting his judgments by the fashions of the world."

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/7 10:22

//I have not found any continuity concerning eschatological beliefs of any kind in and through Church History.//

Which is why I have called it "embarrassing." Think about it- evangelicals claim to follow a book inspired by the living God but when it comes to end times seemingly no one can agree on what it means. That's pretty embarrassing.

I think the reason there is no agreement is that the EXACT DETAILS are not meant to be understood and each person tries to force their own literal meaning onto symbolic or hidden imagery.

If we could simply approach the end times with a sincere reverence for Jesus and do what he says, and then take a "wait and see" approach to how it will all play out, there would be a lot more unity in the Church.

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2017/8/7 11:52

The disunity in the church over eschatological matters arose when Israel was replaced in the thinking of the church. People can't even agree today that Christ will return to Jerusalem from whence He left and returned. In prophecy in many quarters Jerusalem now means the church or something. Anything but a real Jerusalem. When a literal Israel was replaced there was no alternative but to develop a over reliance on the symbolic and allegorical.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/7 12:23

I wasn't even thinking of the Israel issue- I was just thinking in general about the plethora of end time scenarios out there.

We have disagreements over every scintilla of scripture that supposedly has anything to do with future events.

Re: , on: 2017/8/7 12:29

People can't even agree today that Christ will return to Jerusalem from whence He left and returned.

People can't even agree that Christ is going to return period. Even evangelicals doubt the literal return of Jesus Christ.

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2017/8/7 12:31

Let us please quit comparing ourselves by ourselves.

Levying the claim of "False Prophet", "False Teacher", and "False Convert" are all SERIOUS accusations against an individual. There are some things that can be taught that are CLEARLY wrong. When an individual teaches something that is incorrect that does not automatically make them a wolf. It makes them wrong. There must be a consistent pattern of wicked behavior. Go look at the scriptures--every false prophet or false teaching ALSO came with licentiousness and wicked behavior. It was driven by greed, by lust, by self-ambition.

There are NO false prophets who DO what the Bible says. They may look like they do on the outside, but they miss all the mercy, all the grace, all the love for the brethren and the Lord. Their fruit is bad, because they are a bad tree.

I don't think anyone on this forum knows John MacArthur on a personal level. None of the things he has said about himself warrants the belief that the fruit that he bears is bad.

Lastly, there is no rock-solid, black-and-white test that is a predictor of the hearts of men. I do know individuals who taught bad doctrine, who did wicked things, and yet, upon following through with Matthew 18 and similar passages, they repented and were set straight. Turns out they were believers and were deceived. Could that REALLY happen??? Yes. Just go read 1 and 2 Corinthians back to back and see what that looks like. If every person who believed/said/taught something that was not exactly right was scrutinized like this, then every one of us would be condemned.

So, my solution to this problem we are seeing in this forum is this: Discuss the issues. Leave people out of it. If there is enough biblical evidence to suggest that they may be a false prophet, then maybe it can be brought up (only if it edifies the church)--but let's bring it up from a position of humility rather than accusing them of being a false prophet--i.e. asking what other people think. Who knows? Perhaps wisdom comes from many counselors and is not born with us? Maybe we'd all be edified instead of defensive. Maybe, just maybe, doing and acting like the Bible says really does yield better fruit than doing things the way we want to.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/7 12:38

RE : /// The disunity in the church over eschatological matters arose when Israel was replaced in the thinking of the church.///

That is one of the few consistent views we find in the early part of Church History.

The view that the Church is the Israel of God is consistently taught from the early pre nicene writings through the reformers including the early anabaptist.

And then came the postmillennialist views of the revivalist : whom believed that Romans 11:26 : " And so all Israel shall be saved" was referring to Israel of the flesh. They also believed that Romans 11:25 : "the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." literally meant that "most" of the Gentiles would be converted and saved through the revivals and then once that fulness was accomplished then all of Israel of the flesh would be saved.

edit : add for clarity

changed "all" to "most"

Re: , on: 2017/8/7 13:20

I would like to post this question though. Does one believe that they can take the mark of the beast during the tribulation and still repent and be saved. I get the impression there are some in the forum who believe this.

I have been lectured by others in this forum about Sola scriptura. That the Bible is a holy book. If you believe that one can take the mark and be saved and please state your case from the book you say is holy.

What are the scriptural proofs that one can take the mark of the beast during the tribulation and still repent and be saved ?

Bro Blaine

Re: , on: 2017/8/7 13:23

Again I ask. What are your scriptural proofs that one can take the mark during the tribulation and still repent and be saved?

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2017/8/7 13:31

In places Paul still used the word Israel to describe unbelieving Israel so the word in the New Testament is not an automatic synonym for the church.

If the church is now the Israel of God how does that nullify the fact that Christ will return to Jerusalem from whence He ascended from and promised to return to? Will the church stop being the Israel of God if this happens?

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/7 13:32

RE : /// Again I ask. What are your scriptural proofs that one can take the mark during the tribulation and still repent and be saved?///

Whom in this forum made that claim ?

I am not aware of anyone whom was in agreement with JM on that statement.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/7 13:45

//What are the scriptural proofs that one can take the mark of the beast during the tribulation and still repent and be saved?//

What are your scriptural proofs that the mark is a literal tattoo, chip or whatever?

The other mark mentioned previously in Revelation is not literal.

On what basis, other than Hal Lindsey and the Left Behind books, do you prove this mark is a literal mark?

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/7 13:46

Bro Docs

I am simply pointing out what I am finding of church history on the subject.

RE : /// ...Will the church stop being the Israel of God if this happens?///

I take these verse's literal : 2 Peter 3:10

10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

add : I would recommend this a good refutation of John MacArthur's eschatology :
Tim Conway of Grace Community Church on July 24, 2015

Topic: End Times, The Church

Category: Full Sermons

The Bible teaches us that every single promise in the Old Testament that applied to a Jew also applies to us who are in Jesus Christ. The greatest reality about Israel is that Jesus Christ is the true Israel and we only become such by faith in Him.

<http://illbehonest.com/who-is-true-israel-part-3-tim-conway>

Re: - posted by docs (), on: 2017/8/7 14:34

Becoming part of true Israel by faith shouldn't cancel or nullify or change the nature of the promises made to those of Israel who were to become true Israel. I'm a Gentile saved through a covenant made with Israel. I becoming part of and being brought into true Israel doesn't change the promises made to true Israel.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2017/8/7 14:59

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Re: - posted by savannah, on: 2017/8/7 15:16

Blaine's question;

"What are the scriptural proofs that one can take the mark of the beast during the tribulation and still repent and be saved?"

If there were a literal mark and a literal 7 year tribulation I'd contribute to this thread. But the fact that both are null and void it's a moot point.

It's like saying, "If the earth were flat could I fall off?" And then what would become of me?

Re: receiving the mark - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2017/8/7 15:17

To answer brother Blaine...

The mark, whatever it is, spiritual or literal, seems to be received willingly and voluntarily and may be a reflection of where the treasure is there the heart is also.

Consequently, a friend of the world makes himself the enemy of God. He will thus perish with the world and face the fiery judgement of God and therefore will not be saved and counted among those whose hearts remained loyal to their Saviour and their God.

Blessings,

Re: , on: 2017/8/7 15:22

â€œâ€œâ€œ The mark, whatever it is, spiritual or literal, seems to be received willingly and voluntarily and may be a reflection of where the treasure is there the heart is also.

Consequently, a friend of the world makes himself the enemy of God. He will thus perish with the world and face the fiery judgement of God and therefore will not be saved and counted among those whose hearts remained loyal to their Saviour and their God. â€œâ€œâ€œ

Ageed brother.

Bro Blaine

Re: , on: 2017/8/16 18:34

Brother Blaine,

I believe you are correct to suggest an error in his teaching, after all, it resembles, "Thou shalt not surely die."

Thanks for being vigilant while it is still day.

Beth

Re: False Teachers in our own Ranks - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2017/8/25 11:43

There are a couple of things I would like to address.

1. John Macarthur is not a false prophet, he is not a false teacher or a liar nor a wolf to the body of Christ, to those who say such things, you are in error, sin and very wrongly accusing Pastor John.
2. Taking the mark is not the unforgivable sin, there is one, Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, but this is not that.
3. Jesus said every kind of sin and blasphemy even against Jesus himself could be forgiven. This sin falls under that category. In making Pastor John false you must also undo the words of Jesus by relegating taking the mark as another "unforgivable sin". But those who are students of scripture fear God and would fear to even think such a thing let alone presume to add to the words of Jesus.
4. This accusation hinges on an assumed interpretation of scripture, that being "an assumed finality" meaning that taking the mark would be the end of God's working in their hearts or God would not make any further efforts to bring them to the knowledge of the truth.
5. This text in Revelation can be equally interpreted as the "final outcome if unrepented of". For we know in scripture demon possessed men who were saved, evil kings of the most wicked sort were forgiven and repented and every other kind of sinner given the grace to enter God's kingdom. This taking the mark of the beast is no different in either heinousness or degree of punishment.

For we know John does not hesitate to say "all liars" will have their part in the Lake of Fire.

One need not read much of the Bible to know that liars are as equally doomed as mark-takers for sin is of the same root and produces the same fruit.

I agree with Pastor John. I too do not always agree with his eschatology, but to call him a false prophet is a serious accusation and in this case, I could never stand in agreement with it.

Pastor John would be the first one to teach that God's grace is not shortened by the evil men do (notwithstanding the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit) and has rightly concluded that even in this terrible time of judgment from God that the offer of forgiveness and mercy is still outstretched and can wash away that mark just as easily as any other sins committed by men.

Lastly, please do not read my directness as hardness toward anyone, I too have faults that godly men and women must see and help me to overcome.

Re: the examination table - posted by savannah, on: 2017/8/25 13:49

I, for one, do not see your directness as hardness!

You say, "I too have faults that godly men and women must see and help me to overcome."

Welcome to the examination table of the SI forum.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/25 14:13

I agree with you Marvin.

John M may not always be right, but neither were the apostles.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2017/8/25 18:18

What do you think?

Revelations 14 (excerpts)

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/25 19:00

I think that is an extremely esoteric passage from apocalyptic literature and any attempt to literalize it and apply it to some future (to us) scenario is on exceedingly shaky exegetical and eschatological ground.

That's what I think.

Re: , on: 2017/8/25 19:13

~~I think that is an extremely esoteric passage from apocalyptic literature and any attempt to literalize it and apply it to some future (to us) scenario is on exceedingly shaky exegetical and eschatological ground.~~

~~That's what I think.~~

Todd preterism is even more shaky exegetically. If you're applying this to 70 AD.

Bro Blaine

Re: , on: 2017/8/25 19:35

Again I point out that there is a double standard in this forum. There are those who will quickly point out the heretical teachings of Joel Olsteen or Rick Warren or Ken Copelin. But yet will give John MacArthur a free card. Because he is a 5 point Calvinist with letters behind his name and yet holds to Sola Scriptura. It is perfectly alright to allow him to teach here?

We are not talking about things such as modes of baptism or the timing of the rapture or forms of church government where there may be disagreement. We are talking about a point of doctrine where JM is saying that one can take the mark of the beast and still be redeemed. We are talking about the eternal destiny of one's soul if they take the mark. And this is in clear contradiction to the scripture.

If we are going to be Sola Scriptura then let us look to the scriptures.

~~So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.~~

Rev. 16:2

Doom for Worshipers of the Beast

9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." Rev. 14:9-13

This is Sola scriptura. These are what the scriptures testify. If one takes the mark of the beast they are declaring their allegiance to the Antichrist. They are declaring their allegiance to the devil. Once one takes that mark there is no repentance. The scriptures are quite clear on this.

For someone such as John MacArthur with his influence to teach this will bear a stricter judgment according to James 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

Someone such as John MacArthur cannot be given a free card for teaching heresy just because he is a five-point Calvinist, Reformed, and has letters behind his name. I am sure some Calvinistic brethren would repudiate his position on there being redemption after one takes the mark in the tribulation.

John MacArthur must be put in the same category as the false teachers he condemns in the charismatic movement. The teaching of the taking of the mark in the tribulation and there being redemption afterwards is erroneous. His view is not supported by scripture and runs contrary to scripture. If he is not a false prophet then he is certainly a false teacher and I do not see a distinction between the two.

We are living in dark and deceptive times at cry for us to use discernment. Even those who once taught to Bible faithfully can fall away. If they have fallen away such as John MacArthur. Then we must avoid their teaching like the plague.

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2017/8/25 20:34

Esoteric is a very interesting word, but first let us be reminded with this:

Revelations 22 (excerpt)

8 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2017/8/25 20:49

Brother Blaine: You are making serious assumptions in your interpretation of scripture.

1. That taking the mark is a finality or rather a sin where reconciliation to Christ is impossible. The scripture does not support this, I realize quoting a text and then telling others who do not interpret the way you do seems "biblical" but in this case, it is you that has made the mistake.

The reason I say this is because there are more texts to consider than just this "take the mark and go straight to hell" interpretation.

2. It would be simple to add text to text to validate this claim. I'll use just one to illustrate my point.

Joh 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

Joh 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

This quote from our Lord Jesus can be interpreted just as you have done to the Revelation text. Jesus said if you do not believe that I am he...ye shall die in your sins. There it is...succinct straight forward declaration of doom. But wait? Why are those who have not believed Jesus is "he" that is from above..and many disbelieved many long decades have come to saving knowledge of Christ? Because you cannot link the present state of a man and his final doom without interjecting the saving work of the Spirit of God and the preaching of the gospel. There is nothing in the Revelation text that prevents the entrance of the gospel or the work of the Spirit whereby that man or woman might be saved.

What was absent in Jesus quote in John 8 is also absent in Revelation 16.

What changes everything is the "interim" period where God by his mercy brings grace and kindness to bear upon all sinful men.

3. There is nothing about taking the mark of the beast that has not already been done by those who sold themselves to Satan, or to a Pagan Idol or to Greed or Lust, name your devil; evil men have given their whole life to satisfy their evil hearts.

arts by way of Satans ploys.

This ploy does not stand out so great that it overshadows those "liars" or even "cowardly" who will be in the Lake of fire right next to the "mark-takers".

What I am getting at is your desire to show rigid adherence to scripture is taking your interpretations down a side path to erroneous thinking.

Then on top of that taking occasion to accuse John MacArthur for an interpretation that is truly rightly dividing the scripture.

I do not see where you are rightly handling this text, instead, you are assuming an unforgivable sin has been committed where Jesus stated clearly there is only one which is Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

Finally you assume there can be no "interim" period between someone who takes the mark and an offer of God to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. In reality, you are saying this Revelation text in Chapt 16 means all the promises of God to save are null and void. Now you not only must defend the idea that you have an eschatological boundary to the promises of God and you must demand there be no interim period where if someone were to find a bible read it and attempt to call upon Jesus to save them he must reject them. You know well that Jesus teaches us..

Joh_6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. In looking further into the texts of scripture the absurdity of denying such an open promise made available until the return of Jesus Christ does not place John MacArthur with a needed correction but you.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2017/8/25 20:55

Quote:

-----Again I point out that there is a double standard in this forum. There are those who will quickly point out the heretical teachings of Joel Olsteen or Rick Warren or Ken Copelin . But yet will give John MacArthur a free card. Because he is a 5 point Calvinist with letters behind his name and yet holds to Sola Scriptura. It is perfectly alright to allow him to teach heresy?

Brother Blaine,

I want to encourage you to possibly contact "grace to you" and pose your question directly to John MacArthur instead of questioning him to the point of what you are doing. Also let us have grace towards others and not judge brother or this forum as a whole on any issue. God is our judge and we each are in the place of growing and learning.

We happily have some of John MacArthurs messages on SermonIndex and do believe him to be a godly man of God in this generation. <https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=119>

Saying that we also do not need to agree with him on every small point of doctrine or ideas to have him on SermonIndex

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/25 21:11

Amen.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2017/8/26 9:31

I know JM is not popular for nothing, but it really surprises me, that it is just okay to have the mark of the beast after all.

What I know is that their fate had been settled and declared with a clear and exoteric warning. But what quite esoteric is the mark of the beast itself, what is it really, to deserve such a dreadful condemnation.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/26 10:42

Let's not be ridiculous. Nobody here has said it is "ok to get the mark," whatever it may be.

Re: - posted by followthelamb, on: 2017/8/26 12:04

Revelation 14:9-11 emphatically states that those who take the mark of the beast/ worship him will suffer the wrath of God and "the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever".

Some of the things Mr. MacArthur has said may be wrong regarding the mark of the beast, as well as some of the things he has said about those who speak in tongues or believe the gifts of the Spirit are for today.

These things are greatly greiving.

I do believe him to be our brother in Christ who is sincerely mistaken on these points, and not a false prophet, not a purposeful deceiver of the people of God.

Rather than condemn him, can we please lift up sincere prayers for him that in any way he has been taken unknowingly taken captive to do the will of satan, the eyes of his understanding would be enlightened and he would be set free.

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2017/8/26 14:10

The path of the legends can be tough and bruising. You will be tailed by nasty controversies and maybe forced to tread spots where even the angels may tremble.