

“Should Christians Take *The Mark of the Beast*?”

(Obviously, the option to do so – to take the mark – will one day exist. Many Christians will not take the mark. Others will compromise and take the mark. In this context, we simply make the following point: The matter at hand / Our pressing concern is this: **Will those who compromise incur eternal consequences doing so?**)

Months ago we released our “Will Christians Take the Mark of the Beast?” article. The appeals made in **this** hand-out continue to help set the matter straight. While not exhaustive, this presentation touches upon crucial aspects of this, now most pressing question. Please look over this *Handout 100* as it raises grave questions tied to this contemporary issue. EVERYONE capable of rational contemplation about this matter should give serious thought to this cultural decision given the consequences tied to the path one decides to take (on this matter) might be ETERNAL in duration. On to our concern regarding Revelation 14:9-11 ...

Observation The “anyone” of verse 9 – those who take the mark are destined for the Lake of Fire.

- ~ Can we agree: The “anyone” camp is comprised of those who are cast into the Lake of Fire.
- ~ Can we agree: The act(s) of doing the three things mentioned in this text is sinful / are sinful.
(Our point: These deeds are NOT what our Lord wants us to do.)

Interpretation There are *multiple competing hypotheses* on this matter of “anyone.”

INTERNAL Hermeneutical Responses to the concern ...

(one main question: Who comprise the “anyone” group?)

Some say #1, some say #2 (both 1 & 2 immediately below) :

1. “Anyone” means **anyone** and applies to any option: *Mark only* takers who don’t go on to worship are guilty (action 1)
(any option of the three actions place one in the *anyone* camp) Worshipers of the beast & the image are guilty (actions 2 & 3)
2. “Anyone” applies only to those who commit all three sins: they take the Mark & they worship the beast & they worship the image
According to this 2nd view
(those who, say, only take the mark, are okay)
(those who, say, only worship, are not destined for the Lake of Fire)

- ~ Can we agree: Both interpretations above (1 & 2) are viable. Either one *could be* True.

EXTERNAL Hermeneutical Responses to the concern ... (in light of the *Analogy of Scripture*)

1. In consideration of the full Counsel of the Word of God, how does our eternal security fit into this matter?

Those in the #1 camp affirm the eternal security passages AND affirm the “apostasy” passages.

Most of those in the #2 camp would affirm the eternal security passages.

2. Including the premise that there is only one unforgivable sin, how do these two interpretations respond to this issue – an issue we include in the holistic consideration of this matter?

[We should begin by questioning this premise: *There is only ONE unforgivable sin.* Some say the unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Others say it is the rejection of the

gift of salvation from God. Is it possible there's more than one unforgivable sin? What does the full Word of God EXPLICITLY teach on this topic?]

Those in camp #1 would say, either way, the sin of taking the mark lands one in the Lake of Fire.

Most of those in camp #2 would say, this act of taking the mark is NOT an unforgivable sin.

- ~ Can we agree: The interpretive issues tied to this concern of the eternal consequence of taking the mark – some of which are outlined above – do NOT offer absolute resolution. In other words, both interpretive options above are viable – they are, of themselves, both possible.

Application (practical action steps) SO, where does this leave us? Do we simply *agree to disagree* OR is yet another principle appropriate here?

We believe the following perspective offers the BEST conclusion concerning this CRUCIAL matter ...

Call it *Pascal's Argument* if you wish. We'd like to state it in even more simple terms:

Given the two interpretive options above do not allow for a dogmatic conclusion (again, folks *can* conclude dogmatically BUT they need to know they do NOT have sufficient justification/ warrant to do so); and,

Given we do not wish to leave elements of this crucial topic unaddressed (and simply conclude with a “we agree to disagree” attitude) IF there is yet another principle to consider;

Conclusion ... We offer the following appeal:

Because eternity is a HUGE matter ... because this *mark* issue may well be eternal in duration, we encourage you to take a posture of wisdom on this topic. YES, our God is merciful & gracious & He is also true to the full Counsel of His Word. ... Here's the common-sense perspective we're suggesting:

ERR (even IF the side one takes on this matter is an “error”), **ERR on the SAFE side.**

If the first view is incorrect yet one holds it, what is/are the consequence/s of holding the position?
IF the second view is incorrect yet one holds it, what's the consequence of holding the viewpoint?

We wish to make sure we've adequately communicated this pressing concern. **Our point:**

Let's be wise here and hold the position that is the **safest** – in light of eternity – to hold.

The 1st view, if wrong, would bring what eternal consequence? The holding of this view has temporal consequence, to be sure – e.g., opposition against advocates from the AX (antichrist) system. But what **eternal** consequence would adherents of this position incur, if wrong? Where do advocates of this first view *end up* even if their conviction concerning the taking of the mark is wrong? The 2nd view, if wrong, would bring what consequence? The holding of this view has temporal *worldly* benefits, to be sure – e.g., acceptance of advocate (of this 2nd position) by the AX system. But what **eternal** consequence would be extended to adherents of this position, if wrong?

We believe advocates of the 1st view, even if wrong on this *mark* issue, will still enjoy eternity in God's presence. We also believe advocates of the 2nd view (who go on to take the mark), if wrong, will join the unsaved in the Lake of Fire, forever. What's the SAFE position to hold, dear one?