

**Opening Question**

How has your perspective on death changed over your lifetime? (nice light question!)

**Scripture**

Revelation 14:6-13

**Suggested Prayer**

Father, You know us. You know that for us, death seems like a frightening enemy. Thank You that through your Son Jesus Christ, you have defeated our enemy. Christ has risen. And in Christ, we will rise too. What a great hope this is. And we thank You for it. Help us to understand even more deeply what Christ has accomplished on the cross for us as we reflect on Your word. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

1. In this passage, all humanity is either aligned with the Beast (and the powers of darkness behind him) or Christ. List the phrases that describe the fate of those who align themselves with the Beast. (verses 9-11) How do you feel when you imagine human beings experiencing these things? What does it make you want to do?
2. What is the fate of those who align themselves with Christ? (verse 13)
3. Most people think they are neutral, not aligned with either Christ or the powers of darkness. Is that possible? Why or why not?

4. All people, not just those who align themselves with the Beast, deserve God's wrath for their sin and disobedience. But Christ has taken that wrath upon Himself. In this passage, God's wrath is described as a cup filled with wine. How does that image help you understand Christ's words as He faced the horror of the cross?

Matthew 26:36-42

*<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

*<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."...*

*<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

5. The Christians (saints) described in this passage are undergoing tribulation. What is needed and expected from them with God's help in verse 12? What is an area where you need this type of endurance? How will you find the endurance you need?

6. Why are those who die in Christ blessed?

7. What was your take away from the sermon?

**Suggested Closing Prayer**

Father if it were not for Christ, we would justly be spending eternity under Your wrath. Thank You for your mercy to us. Thank You for sending Jesus to drink the cup of God's wrath for us so that we can be blessed forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.