

Sermon Discussion Questions
November 29, 2020

Special Note: In light of Revelation 1:3, please read the passage for this week's study questions aloud as a group before going through the questions.

1. Pastor Tom stated the reality that although our suffering could be for the sake and encouragement of others, it doesn't change the fact that we are still suffering. Today, we were encouraged with the hope that the end of suffering is coming. When you hear the word hope while in your suffering, are you encouraged?
2. **Read Revelations 14:1-5.** The 144,000 individuals are ethnic Israelites and physical descendants of the sons of Jacob. According to Revelation 14, who are these individuals, what is the seal that Revelation 7:3 speaks of, and what makes them so special compared to those outside of this group?
3. **Read Revelation 7:9-10.** What role did the 144,000 play while in the great tribulation? What encouragement does this give you and God's Church during suffering, especially during Covid-19?
4. Pastor Tom mentions that when we believe in Jesus that an invisible mark is placed upon us in a similar way the 144,000 are sealed. What implications does this have on our lives today and how does that affect the way we live out our Christian walk? (See Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:5)
5. At the end of the message, Pastor Tom tells a story of two men that were captured and thrown in-to a dungeon. One man discovered that his wife and child were dead while the other man learned that his wife and child were alive. Both men experienced the same circumstances but responded differently because they had their minds set on different futures. How does the hope we currently have and the future hope we have in Jesus change the way we suffer? Do you struggle to believe this truth sometimes?
6. Discuss among the group some ways this message changes the way that you think about the future, how we suffer as Christians and how it affects the way we share our faith with others around us. Wrap up your time together praying for one another.