

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 13:28-32.**
- B. Many people look to the Bible to try and explain the future. The religious world does not agree on the events that will precede the coming of X.
- C. Jesus discusses the upcoming fall of Jerusalem and the destroying of the temple in Mk. 13. While predicting future events Jesus tells us what to do in preparation for these events.
- D. God will end the world just the way He wants to. It makes no difference as to whether men understand the prophecies. It does make a difference however, that we do the things necessary to be ready for that end. This is the emphasis of this lesson.

I. “SEE THAT NO ONE MISLEADS YOU” (Mk. 13:1-8).

- A. NIV--“Watch out that no one deceives you.”
- B. Jesus lists some things that must NOT be taken as the “signs” of His coming.
 - 1. False messiahs.
The pages of history are filled w/tragic stories of those who led their deluded disciples. Jesus warned about these people--He said there would be false prophets (Mt. 7:15-20). Paul spoke against following the wolves in sheep’s clothing (Ac. 20:28-31). John asked the brethren to be sure and test the spirits (1Jn. 4:1-6).
 - 2. Political conflicts.
These were about to happen in the Roman empire and would continue throughout history. We know that political upheaval continues in our present world.
 - 3. Natural disasters.
There will be floods, fire, famine, etc., throughout time. With our advanced news media, we are much more aware of such calamities than we were in the past, but they are not to be considered signs of the time.
- C. False teachers and false christs will use these things and try to pull people away from the true faith and the true X (13:6). Jesus warns--do not be deceived!!

II. “BE ON YOUR GUARD” (Mk. 13:9-13).

- A. Not only were the believers to take heed and avoid the deceivers, but they were also to *take heed to themselves.*”
- B. WHY? Xians were to take heed because they would face increasing opposition and persecution from both official and personal sources.
 - 1. Political opposition.
See 13:9-11. The Romans were not sympathetic to Xianity, they tolerated it with the other religions of the Empire. But because of the evangelistic nature of Xianity and its life changing power, it is a real threat to those who have civil authority. The same is true today, in those countries that do not approve, but only tolerate Xianity.
 - 2. Personal persecution.
See 13:12. Sadly, even those of one’s own household or family will turn against those who profess their faith in the Savior (Mt. 10:34-36).
- C. With such times we also live. Those who do not share our Xian convictions rule over us, and families continue to divide over a members allegiance to the gospel.

III. “HE THAT ENDURES TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED” (Mk. 13:13-22).

- A. In this section of the chapter of Mark, Jesus speaks of the horrible things that will happen to those who are in Jerusalem when the temple is destroyed. Such tribulation and persecution is more than enough

to cause people to leave the church and sever their relationship with X. By doing so they can save their own life.

- B. But that is no solution. To those who save their life, in this life, will lose it in the next life (Mk. 10:29-31). John writes of two things that are in the kingdom; tribulation, and perseverance (Rev. 1:9)!
- C. Tertullian: "We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The blood of Xian is seed."
- D. The cause of the persecution is simple, "for My name's sake." If we identify with JC we can expect the world to treat us the way it treated Him (Jn. 15:20; 16:33).
- E. Everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2Tim. 3:12).
- F. Faithfulness, endurance, and patience mean salvation (Rev. 2:10).

IV. "TAKE HEED" (Mk. 13:23-27).

- A. NIV--"Be on your guard."
- B. This is the second time that Jesus has warned the Twelve to be on their guard, or to be ready. But He did not leave them (or us) defenseless! He has told us everything *we need to know* in advance.
- C. We are warned repeatedly of X's coming and to be ready for that event:
 - 1. The NT warns of false teachers to come (2Tim. 4)--be ready.
 - 2. The NT warns of persecution (Rev. 1)--be ready.
 - 3. The NT tells of those who will leave the faith (Heb. 6; 10)--be ready.
 - 4. The NT tells of the mockers that will taunt the believers (2Pet. 3)--be ready.
 - 5. The NT warns of those of do not love the truth (2Th. 2)--be ready.
 - 6. The NT tells us of the suddenness of His return (1Th. 5)--be ready.
- D. No one knows the hour of His coming, but we can be ready for that coming.

VI. TWO PARABLES OF WARNING (Mk. 13:28-37).

- A. The parable of the fig tree (13:28-32).
 - 1. The lesson of this parable is that the coming is near.
 - 2. Jesus figuratively came back in judgment on the temple and Jerusalem in the person of Titus and the Romans who destroyed at will. Jesus came back in judgment on Jerusalem just as He said He would, which means He will return on the final day to judge all (Mt. 25:31-46).
- B. The parable of householder (13:33-37).
 - 1. The lesson of this parable is that we do not know the exact time, only that X is coming.
 - 2. Jesus says it explicitly--you do not know the time! Therefore, instead of trying to use the Scriptures to calculate the time, it is better to be prepared/ready for that time.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Mark, chapter 13 is a difficult chapter to understand, but the warnings are not.
- B. Even if we are confused about how the world will end and just how all of the prophecies work together, we can still be ready for that coming.
- C. Are you ready for the coming of X? Are you a faithful Xian?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.