

## *Our Future in His Hands – Part C*

Mark 13:28-37

Series: Christ our Focus

### 1. Introduction:

- a. Last week we studied the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
  - i. We focused on the fact that as Christians, we are to be ready to meet our Lord at His second coming.
  - ii. We are not overwhelmed by the certainty of future eschatological events but are instead, daily, living lives that are pleasing to the Lord having a mindful attitude towards His coming.
- b. This chapter is broken down as follows:
  - i. A<sup>1</sup> Verses 01-13 – End of the temple and fall of Jerusalem
  - ii. B<sup>1</sup> Verses 14-27 – and Parousia
  - iii. A<sup>2</sup> Verses 28-31 – End of the temple and Fall of Jerusalem
  - iv. B<sup>2</sup> Verses 32-37 – Parousia and watchfulness for the Coming
- c. Today, we are going to view the destruction of the temple along with the final warning in regards to the Parousia.

### 2. The Fig Tree – Destruction of the Temple—Section A<sup>2</sup> Verses 28-31

- a. In conjunction with verse 29 – we see that this is a reference to the destruction of the temple as seen in Verse 2 of this chapter.
  - i. **Mark 13:2** And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."
- b. Verse 28 – From the fig tree learn this lesson –
  - i. The fig tree loses its leaves in winter and only late in spring, when winter is past and warm weather is at hand, does its branch grow tender with buds.
    1. The imagery reminds the hearers that when they see the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem, and it reminds us that when we see the signs of the coming of our Lord, we are to know that Christ, either in judgment or deliverance, is at hand.
- c. Verses 29 – Notice that the budding of the fig tree hints at the nearness of summer but not its immediacy.

1. We are not to be looking for the signs but for what comes after the signs.
  - ii. In Chapter 11 the fig symbolize the destruction of the temple and it functions the same way here—as some sort of cataclysmic event.
  - d. Verse 30—This generation will not pass away
    - i. The fall of Jerusalem signals a future devastation before the coming of the Lord.
    - ii. That generation did not pass away but saw the coming of the end of Jerusalem
      1. God’s word is sure.
  - e. Verse 31 – Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
    - i. The authority of Christ
      1. Jesus asserts that his words will outlive heaven and earth and this is a remarkable claim of authority. The only being that can make this claim is God so Jesus here takes on the mantle of God.
      2. **Isaiah 51:6** Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.
      3. The words of Christ will outlive the cosmos itself
    - ii. The authority of Scripture –
      1. **Matthew 5:18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished
3. Expectancy and Vigilance—Parousia of Christ—B<sup>2</sup> Verses 32-37
    - a. Verse 32 – No knows the day and the hour
      - i. Paradox here – Divine Sonship is coupled with human limitations.
      - ii. The Son relinquishes all claims concerning the future into the Father’s plan.
        1. Our goal is the same
    - b. Verse 33-37 – Diligence in being ready
      - i. We cannot prepare for the end but we must be watchful in regards to Christ.

1. The sole act in which we show watchfulness is in living in obedience in the present.
- ii. Five times—and in three different words—Jesus warns the disciples to watch, to be alert.
- iii. Verse 34 – The doorkeeper needed to be awake for his Master’s return.
  1. Effectively the disciples of Christ are to be awake at all times
- iv. Verse 35 – the four Roman watches suggest that Mark is speaking to the church of the day which was predominately Gentile in nature. The instruction of the disciples are our instructions.
  1. Living faithfully in the present—this is our only job.
- v. Verse 36 – lest he finds us asleep
  1. **Luke 18:8**...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"
- vi. Verse 37 – What I say to you, I say to all: Stay awake!

4. Benediction:

- a. **Colossians 4:2-3** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (3) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison--