

The end of the world will happen.

Mark 13

Don't be deceived.

Mark 13:5-13; Matt. 7:15-20; Acts 20: 28-31; 1 John 4:1-6

- Be alert.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit.

Don't be discouraged

Mark 13:9-13; John 14:26; Acts 4:8; John 13:1; Romans 8:35-38; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:29-34

- It's Him, not you.

What we need to do in the meantime:

- Stand firm.
Luke 21:16-19; James 4:7 & 1 Peter 5:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:22
- **Keep doing the next right thing.**

My intentional momentum:

I will put my hope and trust in Jesus Christ alone because he loves me and gave himself for me therefore, I will not be afraid. Until he comes back for me, I will joyfully make my life count by following him in how I live my life.

NEXT STEPS

Waiting is hard and not knowing what will happen next can elicit a variety of responses in us. In Mark 13, Jesus answers some questions about the future, both near and far off, but above all he encourages an attitude we all need to develop.

1. Why do you think so many of us have such a fascination with the future?

2. Have you ever found yourself or been around others who are getting pulled into thinking there's a chance Jesus will return on a certain date? If so, what was the response after it didn't happen?

DIGGING DEEPER.

1. Read Mark: 5–13. How would Jesus' warnings and encouragements have helped the disciples in the early years of the church?

2. What relevance do these warnings and encouragements have for us today?

3. How would Mark 13:26–27 encourage those who have experienced the distress/trouble preceding Jesus' return?

4. Fear is one of those responses/emotions that can be confusing to understand, especially when you begin talking about the end of time. How do the following verses help you understand what it means to have a healthy fear (respect, awe) of God as opposed to a fear that paralyzes us or causes us to live in worry or dread?

Proverbs 16:6

Proverbs 1:32-33

Jeremiah 32:39-40

5. All of us want to be ready for Christ's return, and to know what to do before he returns. How does 1 Peter 4:7-11 expand the strategy we were given in this week's teaching?

Looking at your responses to the verse above, rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5. Is there anything you'd like to work to improve on or make sure you continue to do?

TAKING IT HOME

Preparing for Easter.

1. Prepare your heart by reading the Lenten devotions.
2. Pray for God to reveal himself to you in a new way.
3. Pray about reaching out to people around you with an invitation to join you this Easter.
4. Take action this week to invite others.

Prayer Requests