

August 26, 2007

Broken World – Victorious Christ Mark 13

Our Broken World – Romans 8:22

This passage often gives way to a lot of conjecture, but it means much more – and unfortunately we often miss the real message – that we live in a broken world, but that because we are His, we have no reason to fear – in spite of the realities of living in a fallen world.

So what does Jesus say we are to do? Does He tell us to freak out? No. Does He tell us to run and hide? No. Does He encourage us to insulate ourselves from the pain and ugliness of the world? No, He doesn't. Does He urge us to create an artificial Christian world? No.

- **Verse 7** – ‘Don't let it throw you.’
- ‘Don't Let it Deceive You’ (throughout the passage)

Instead Jesus tells us how to live:

- **Vs. 5** – “Watch out... deceives you” (“leads you astray”) – Revelation 13:14
- **Vs. 14** – ‘Keep your head’ (“let the reader understand”) – know what is true rather than speculate
- **Vs. 18** – ‘Pray’ – Stay on your knees
- **Vs. 35** – ‘Stay Awake’ (“Watch out” – different from vss. 5, 23)

Instead of encouraging us to live in denial He gives us this promise in verse 13 – “he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Essentially Jesus encourages us to ‘hang in there’ – because we are His.

It is really an OT hope, written of by the prophets, longed for in the people, and fulfilled in Jesus.

2 Peter 3:13 – “...we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth...”

Vs. 31 – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” In other words, Every promise of the OT Prophets – every promise to restore all things – Every promise that God will be our God and we His people – Every promise of the new heaven and the new earth – Every promise of Peace – All of them are secure – in Jesus.

John 16:32-33 – “...But I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

As with Jesus, we are here for a Reason and a Season

- **Reason** – vs. 10 – ‘the gospel’
- **Season** – vs. 32 – ‘No one knows the day/hour’

But why do we worry? We are more concerned with being safe than being His – and that subtle difference keeps us in a perpetual state of anxiety and paralysis.

The testimony of a pastor and two parents who lost their two year old son:

“Jude is gone from us, gone to be with His sweet Savior.
For now, we are grieving. Grieving.
But not without hope.
Grieve with us. Hope with us.
Trust Jesus with us. In life and in death – He is good.
God is our refuge.”