

Sermon Series: Luke 21:5-38

Grace to Stand When the World Is Falling

Sermon Text: Luke 21:20-33 The Grace of Trust Pt. 2

Christ reveals God's sovereign, saving plan when considering the coming judgment, so that we will live with confident faith and hope in Him.

1) (Recap Last Week) Christ reveals God's sovereign, saving plan when considering the coming judgment.

- a) Jerusalem's/Rome's fall is part of God's plan of salvation through judgment.
- b) Jerusalem's fall is the exercise of Christ's universal dominion, which anticipates the final judgment/salvation of the nations.
- c) Jerusalem's fall is ironically Zion's redemption:
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Judgments are a part of God's government of the world and His plan of salvation. caution against specific interpretations of God's providence; should use "frowning providences" as reminders to examine ourselves
 - ii) Divine judgments within history herald a final judgment of all nations and individuals.
 - iii) Christ is the necessary and only way to be delivered from the judgment of God.

2) Christ equips us to live with confident faith and hope in Him.

- a) Christ's instructions to that first generation of New Covenant people:
 - i) "flee" (21:21a)—do not resist Rome
 - ii) "let not those who are out in the country enter it" (21:21b)—don't trust Jerusalem
 - iii) "straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (21:28)—confident faith in Christ; knowing the Kingdom of God is not falling with the destruction of Jerusalem/Rome; but that God is vindicating His Christ and His people through His judgments (cf. Rev. 16:5-6; 18:19-20; 19:1-2)
 - iv) "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees." (21:29-31)—discernment from Christ's teachings
 - v) The early Christians, heeding the prophecy of Jesus, escaped Jerusalem's fall.
 - vi) Noah & Lot listened to God and were delivered when God's judgment fell
- b) Christ's word our confidence (21:33): ". . . but My words will not pass away."
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Seek first the kingdom of God . . ." (Matt. 6:33). Loyalty to Christ supersedes all other loyalties—Christ above country, family, vocation, "life." Be controlled by the love of Christ above all other loves (2 Cor. 5:13-14).
 - ii) Discern "news and events" theologically:
 - (1) with knowledge of God's revelation (21:33)
 - (2) with faith in God's providence
 - (3) with peace from God's goodness
 - (4) with hope from God's promises
 - iii) Jesus told His people to flee from the wrath to come, but Jesus went to Jerusalem to bear the wrath of God.

Doxology: Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me. Psalm 144:1-2