

“Enduring Until the End”  
Mark 13:13  
(Preached at Trinity, August 13, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. After a period of intense teaching in the Temple Jesus turns to leave. As He was departing His disciples came to Him boasting about the beauty and greatness of the Temple structure. Jesus divulges to them that the entire system of Judaism was about to come crashing down. The Temple structure was going to be utterly destroyed. Every stone would be moved from its place. This occurred in 70 A.D.
2. To this the disciples asked the obvious question: “When?”  
**Mark 13:4 NAU** - "Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"
3. The disciples thought that Jesus must surely be speaking of the end of the age. They believed the temple would stand until the end of time. Matthew's Gospel records this aspect of their question.  
**Matthew 24:3 NAU** - "what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"
4. In His answer Jesus tells of the condition of this present age during the entire interadvental period.  
It will be characterized by wars and famines and natural disasters. But Jesus says, "See to it that no one misleads you."  
"These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs."  
Matthew's Gospel records:  
**Matthew 24:6 NAU** - "See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end."
5. Then Jesus tells of a terrible period of tribulation.  
**Matthew 24:21 NAU** - "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will."
6. The context forces us to apply this to 70 AD
  - A. Luke's Gospel applies this specifically to Jerusalem  
**Luke 21:20 NAS** - "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand."
  - B. D.A. Carson notes that the description of this tribulation is too limited “geographically and culturally” to extend beyond the events of 70 AD.
  - C. Jesus said that the sign of this tribulation would be the Abomination of Desolation  
**Mark 13:14 NAU** - "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains."
7. It is also true, however, that tribulation is one of the characteristics of Christ's Church  
**Mark 13:13 NAU** - "You will be hated by all because of My name"

- A. The Bible teaches that the interadvental period, the Gospel age will be characterized by both triumph and tribulation.  
John Murray – “Interadvental history is characterized by tribulation, turmoil, strife, perplexity, wars and rumors of wars. Contemporaneous with this, however, is the universal expansion of the church.”
- B. Although we shouldn't try to pack the tribulation of 70 AD into a strict double-fulfillment with everything pointing to both 70AD and the end of time, we can surely see the tribulation of 70 AD as a type of the suffering of God's people throughout the Gospel age.
1. The great Abomination of Desolation serves as a prototype of the great profaning of God's Temple which is the church. This has been taking place from the beginning of the Church and will only increase. The antichrist and beast have been among us continually
  2. Like birth pains (**Verse 8**) they will continue in frequency and intensity. Throughout the history of Christianity there have been countless martyrs and it continues today.
    - a. Because of the persecution many have fallen away – they hang on tightly to this present age.  
**Matthew 24:10 NAU** - "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another."  
**2 Timothy 4:10 NAS** - "for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me" - αἰών  
**Matthew 13:22 NAU** - "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world (αἰών) and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."  
**2 Timothy 4:2-4 NAU** - "preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."
    - b. This present age blinds us and consumes us. Our flesh savors the delights it offers.
    - c. As this age continues wickedness increases in intensity  
**Matthew 24:12 NAU** - "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold."
  3. Paul spoke of a terrible time of apostasy and falling away.  
**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NAU** - "Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, <sup>2</sup> that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction"

4. If the destruction of Jerusalem was just a foreshadow how terrible will be the suffering of God's people during this final time of apostasy and the persecution of God's people.  
Kim Riddlebarger – "The events of A.D. 70 become a prophetic foreshadowing of an eschatological fulfillment at the end of the age, when in the midst of the great apostasy, the antichrists (i.e., the beast and the man of sin) demand worship for themselves, profaning God's temple, which is the church."
7. The Bible warns of the ever-present danger of falling away. It gives us examples of those who did. It warns us of the finality of falling away.  
**Hebrews 6:4-6 NAU** - "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame."  
A. The religious pretender will not, cannot persevere. He might continue in religion that makes no demands, but he is entirely unsuited to meet the demands of Christian discipleship. His counterfeit faith is entirely insufficient to withstand the assaults of the world and the devil. His carnal flesh will demand to be satisfied.  
B. Even for the genuine Christian, the habits of God's engrafted graces are still imperfect in this life and without the indwelling Spirit of God we would surely fall away.
8. The Bible presents us with a wonderful truth.  
The true Christian will persevere in the Christian faith until the end.  
A. The fact that we continue to press on is a great source of confidence that our faith is genuine. Many believers cannot give the precise time of their conversion, yet they can surely see the progress of God's grace in their lives. They have continued to persevere in the Christian life.  
B. Herman Witsius (Dutch Reformed Theologian of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century) – "Those to whom God has freely given faith and holiness, he likewise keeps with such solicitous care, that it is impossible for any true believer totally and finally to fall away from that holiness when once it is begun, and thereby forfeit the salvation appointed for him."
9. Jesus makes a clear statement here in the Olivet Discourse:  
**Mark 13:13 NAU** - "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."
10. While there is this wonderful confidence for the Christian, there remains a constant warning. Never is the Christian given over to presumptuous slumber. We are warned to press on, to strive, to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. There remains this perfect balance between God's preserving grace and our persevering diligence.
11. Tonight I want to briefly describe these two inseparable truths.
  - I. Preservation – God's gracious work in keeping us.
    - A. Preservation is not presumption
      1. The expression "once saved always saved" has been pressed to great perversion.
        - a. Multitudes base their assurance on some church affiliation or some past religious experience

- b. Perhaps they were baptized as an infant or their parents were pillars of the church
    - c. Perhaps they prayed a prayer and became a member of a church
  - 2. The problem is there is no sign of Christian conversion
    - The are not zealous for the cause of Christ
    - They do not read their Bible, they seldom pray,
    - Doctrine bores them – they care little of learning more of God or of Christ’s glorious work.
    - They think little of worship or preaching.
  - 3. The truth is that those who profess to be Christians but continue their life of worldliness are simply demonstrating their true nature
 

**2 Peter 2:20-22** – “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
- B. The true believer is of a different sort. God has a plan and purpose for His people
  - 1. It is founded upon the election of our Father
 

**John 6:39-40 NAU** - "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
  - 2. How can God lose those whom He has chosen to eternal life
  - 3. Would God allow the loss of a single one of those He has given to His Son for an inheritance
 

**John 10:27-29 NAU** - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand."
- C. Our salvation is secured upon the work of Christ
 

**John 10:11 NAU** - "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

  - 1. Consider the horrors of the cross and then imagine that Christ would ever allow a single one of those for whom He died to be taken from Him
  - 2. Will He not protect those who have now become His property
- D. It is also maintained upon the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Shall the One sent to abide with us forever now leave us and forsake us?
 

**John 14:16 NAU** - "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"

2. How can the Holy Spirit lose one within whom He dwells  
**Jude 1:24-25** – “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”
3. We shall NEVER fall away!

II. But we must not diminish the human aspect of perseverance.

Genuine conversion presses on, perseveres

- A. The Christian life is full of many struggles, wars, and battles
  1. Perseverance doesn't mean sinlessness. A true believer may be guilty of sinning against God
    - a. He may even commit atrocious sin and grieve the Holy Spirit
    - b. God will not allow one of His own to continue in sin. God will convict us and chasten us and bring us back to obedience.
    - c. The true believer will never forsake the Christian life  
He presses on
  2. The true believer presses on through every circumstance of life.  
Perseverance does not grow cold during trials
  3. Trials are the very things sent to try and test our faith to prove it genuine  
**1 Peter 1:7 NAU** - " so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ"
- B. There is a whole perversion of Christianity today that teaches God wants us to be prosperous and healthy – that He wants us to have an abundant carefree life.
  1. What happens when adversity comes? Do they press on?  
How many church members today would go to prison for their faith?  
How many church members would undergo cruel torture for their faith?
  2. For many today, you cannot even get them to come to church  
Every possible excuse will keep them from worship
- C. Perseverance is not drawn away by worldly affairs or materialism
  1. Jesus described this as the profession choked by thorns  
**Matthew 13:22 NAU** - "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."
  2. The Bible has much to say about materialism – severe warnings  
**Matthew 6:24** – “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”  
**1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NAU** - "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God." Covetous = greedy of gain, eager to have more

3. We learn to examine everything by the effect it has upon our soul and our relationship with Christ.  
**1 Corinthians 6:11-12 NAU** - "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. <sup>12</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."
4. Perseverance maintains an eye upon Christian duty  
**2 Timothy 2:3-4 NAU** - "Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."  
**Luke 9:62 NAU** - "But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

#### Conclusion:

1. This grand work of God gives us confidence that our faith is genuine  
**1 Peter 1:3-5 NAU** - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."  
 φρουρέω – “kept in custody, to guard”
2. The Bible gives sufficient evidence of conversion that no one should be fooled into believing he has something that he does not.
  - a. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit as we compare our lives with the testimony of Scripture.  
**1 John 3:21 NAU** - "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God"
  - b. Our faith is increased by the fact we are pressing on. We are continuing in the faith. We are progressing in the faith. The Christian graces in our lives are increasing.
3. The question is, what is your great motivation for pressing on?  
 Have you fallen in love with Christ?

