

Pentecost 28 2018

Mark 13

- 1 Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

- 2 Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee. Amen.

Mark 13:1–13 As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 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.”

And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And

brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ***And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.***

In the Name of Jesus.

My friend Jesus says: “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.¹

HAPPY news about our Baptism into Christ! Context?
Mark 16:

¹² After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.²

So....since our Friend Jesus CANNOT put ANY WEIGHT on the ‘BELIEVING’ part of salvation—if and when WE start acting; it only leads to condemnation!—the Risen Lord gave His

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 16:15–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 16:12–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Eleven and the Church and you and me, each one, the Gift of Holy Baptism. A CHAIR, sure enough to support ANYONE who would sit—whether or not we sit, whether or not we believe His promise. THAT is why He suffered so!

AND.....no doubt, the reason your Friend Jesus will not leave us DEMOTING ourselves, our religion OR our FRIEND JESUS into just another of the kingdoms and religions and showcases of this sinking ship in which we are sailing!

Proof?

Mark 14: ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

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THREE times is enough! FOR the Blessed, Holy Trinity!
Our reconciliation with the Father, our confidence from the Son,
and the Holy Spirit’s indwelling in us will not have ANYTHING
to do with OUR fitness for receiving HIM!

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 14:37–43). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Mark 14 again: And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.⁴

Oh, TWO GUYS hung around with Jesus the whole way That Day. Let’s hear about THEM!

Mark 15: Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.⁵

AND....just to comfort the great ladies among us that the Savior is the Savior is the Savior, Mark 16 again: ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 14:70–72). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mk 15:32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. ⁶

Our Friend Jesus is MORE than just a ‘wet blanket!’

“Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 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.”

HE is going DOWN! Down, down, down: ‘My God! My God! Why have you forsaken ME, of ALL MEN?!’

OUR attachment to THE BIG—buildings, crowds, sacks of pennies—puts us in the greatest peril: so ready to FALL for those who would be VICARS for Christ, stand-ins for Him, His voice; and turn what HE has made so small and OURS into something BEYOND us, still for us to ATTAIN!

Our friend sat down opposite the doomed temple—THE ONLY sure place to FIND THE LIVING GOD in this doomed world!---

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mk 16:5–8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

And He dismissed it all: temple; world;
AND...FINDING...GOD!

Instead, He placed God and Him and the Holy Spirit to boot with water that is everywhere! As His indestructible Church is; now! Now that He has risen from the dead, and said, FIRST THING: ‘Gotta get that PETER back on my team! Can’t do a thing without a guy like THAT!’

And those who were to tell Peter told no one. Yet, He heard; the other ten two; and did not believe. And instead of condemning them, He appeared to them with rebuke, and turned over everything—again!—God, His poor self, and His poor Spirit!—to us poor men. And so, we are SURELY saved!

As long as the chair will hold the man who sits. Though we think the chair too little, too weak.

What a lousy parallel your poor pastor has come up with! For chairs do not fall from the sky, bubble up from the ground, and make up nine parts out of ten of our flesh!

That’s water: when combined with God’s Word and included in God’s command ‘WORKS the forgiveness of sins, RESCUES from death and the devil, and GIVES eternal salvation to all who believe this—to whom the words and promises of God have come, the Gospel!’

‘He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.’

I’m not all that sure about my BELIEVING—check my daily sins, mood, facial expression, blah, blah, blah.

And whose sins are NOT WASHED away by Jesus: you know, the ones churning in your heart, spitting out your gums? For whom is no prayer sighed to your God? For whom does our old, evil self pray harm?

But Friend Jesus has given us THE GIFT that will be despised by all men to the end: the CERTAINTY of HIS WORK with us, for us, to the end!

So sure, that He is free to rebuke and chide the Eleven for their UNBELIEF—and STILL be their Savior, their God, their Friend. He must love us too, my dear ones! For He feels free and confident enough to condemn OUR unbelief, and yet smile on us!

I was baptized; happy day! All my sins were washed away!
God looked down on me and smiled. I became His own dear child!

I was baptized! Happy Day! In the Name of Jesus!