

# NO CONFIDENCE IN EARTHLY THINGS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—Aug 4th, 2024

Mark 13:1–2

(ESV)

[1] And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” [2] 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.”

## INTRODUCTION

“... the earthly city glories in itself, the Heavenly City glories in the Lord.” —**St. Augustine**, The City of God

## OVERVIEW OF MARK 13

### Prophetic Literature

Two distinct/related prophecies—the destruction of the temple & the return of Christ.

**Mark 13:30**–[30] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

- **Futurist Position**—most, if not all of these events would take place in the future.
- **Preterist Position**—these events being fulfilled in the past, mainly by the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- **Historicist Position**—the historical events in this passage set patterns that would be recurring throughout the church age

Jesus wanted his disciples to persevere in their faith even through significant tribulation.

**Mark 13:13**–[13] And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**Mark 13:37**–[37] And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

“These words of Jesus are not intended to be words of speculation, they’re intended to be words of preparation.” —**John Kimbell**

My hope is that you will abandon your confidence in earthly things, and embrace full trust in Christ regardless of your life circumstances.

## THE DISCIPLES’ FALSE ASSURANCE

### The Temple

- The religious center of Jerusalem

- The presence of the Lord dwelled in his temple
- Not a place of worship primarily, but of sacrifice
- When the temple was stable in its structure, order, and practices, Israel was stable.

*“Now the outward face of the temple in its front wanted nothing that was likely to surprise either men's minds or their eyes: for it was covered all over with plates of gold of great weight, and, at the first rising of the sun, reflected back a very fiery splendor, and made those who forced themselves to look upon it to turn their eyes away, just as they would have done at the sun's own rays.”*

–**Josephus**, *The War of the Jews*

The purpose of the temple was to conceal the glory of God so men could come meet with him, but the false religion of the scribes and Pharisees turned the temple into a white-washed grave.

**1 Samuel 16:7**–*“For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

Our trust does not rest on the work of our hands, but on the work of Christ.

**Romans 3:27**–*[27] Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.*

## JESUS' RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Jesus does not deny the magnificence of the temple, but he also understands its finite purpose.

**Acts 17:24**–*[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man...*

The temple had a purpose, but when Christ came, that purpose was fulfilled.

**Matthew 12:6**–*“I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.”*

It is worth it to let go of something of lesser glory so we can gain something of ultimate glory.

**Philippians 3:7-8**–*[7] But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...*

The loss of all things is a necessary requirement for someone to gain Christ.

**Luke 9:62**–*[62] Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*