

# CONFIDENCE AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—September 15th, 2024

Mark 13:28-37

(ESV)

[28] “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. [35] Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—[36] lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

## INTRODUCTION

Uncertainty is one of the great certainties we can have in our current life experiences.

**Hebrews 13:8**—[8] *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

It is possible to be confident in times of uncertainty.

## THE CONSTANT CALL TO FAITH

God sets patterns in creation that help us understand who he is and how he works.

Immediacy causes us to focus on the things that truly are important and not waste precious time with things that are secondary.

**Hebrews 3:13**—[13] *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

The words of Christ are the promises he makes towards his people.

**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.*

The words of Christ are the words of God.

**Isaiah 40:8**

[8] *The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

## THE CONSTANT CHALLENGE TO PERSEVERE

Hypostatic union

*“...one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved...”* –**Chalcedonian Creed** (451 AD)

If Jesus in his humanity didn’t seek to know the precise time for the last hour, we shouldn’t either.

**Deuteronomy 29:29**–[29] *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Trust the Lord with the future, and live wisely in the present.

*“The End is ultimately not a ‘then’ but a mysteriously present now. The sole preparation for the End is watchfulness and faithfulness in the present.”* –**James Edwards**

**1 John 2:28**–[28] *And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.*