

Reformation Day

Sermon Road Map
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Mark 13:5-11
October 31, 2021

Let God's pure word equip you to be untroubled in troubling times.

- ❖ 234 years ago a woman asked Ben Franklin, “*What do we have, a republic or a monarchy?*” He replied: “*A republic, if you can keep it.*”
 - 504 years after the posting of the 95 Theses it's good to ask, *What do we have?*
 - *A reformation of the visible church, if we can keep it.*
 - ◆ The Church is the Lord's and **he will keep it** until the end.
 - ◆ But for us to enjoy the Reformation's restoration of the gospel and all its pure teachings, we need to do more than wave Luther Seals. We need to keep all of it.
 - ◆ Never turn God's good news into *new news* that we consider *good*. Our flesh will seek pleasant, frustration free, easy ways, free from trials and troubles - just the opposite of what our Lord told his faithful disciples to expect and prepare for.
 - While the gospel brought times of refreshing, Satan soon brought troubling times
 - ◆ Luther declared an *Outlaw*. The Peasants' War. Schmalkaldic War (1546-1547)
 - ◆ Today, lands that eagerly accepted the Gospel have largely abandoned the word.
 - The teachings restored in the Reformation, now considered *outdated* and *foolish*
- ❖ Pummeled with bad news people universally consider ours to be troubling times.
 - Earthquakes, famines, fires, stronger storms, rising sea levels, climate changes
 - Coups, civil war, terrorists, drug cartels, human trafficking, countries behaving like emboldened and undeterred bullies - Christians facing increased assaults and threats
 - All matching Jesus' description of the times between his Ascension and his Return
 - ◆ Remember these words of our Lord when you watch or read the news.

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- ❖ ***Be careful that no one deceives you. Many will be deceived.***
 - The Reformation was needed because many had been deceived.
 - ◆ People relying on what others said, rather than learning what Jesus said.
 - ◆ People eager to be told what they wanted to hear or what makes sense to them
 - ◆ Relying on the *experts* for their religions. *Just tell us what to do.*
 - Jesus came to undo the work of the Great Deceiver Satan.
 - ◆ Every human heart and all communities of fallen humans live deceived - blind
 - ◆ Jesus' word and works - perfectly matching God's promised Savior - reveal the truth with the power to enlighten sin darkened and blinded minds and hearts.
 - ◆ Our Savior rescues us with his word of truth, delivering us from deception.
 - ◆ Only God's pure word can equip us to not join the deceived masses.
- ❖ Consider how God's pure word equips us for troubling times.
 - Jesus' perfect description of our times hits us like buckets of ice water.
 - ◆ Jesus' victory over Satan and death would not create a trouble-free world.
 - ◆ Why? The world is still full of rebellious people and creation is under sin's curse.
 - ◆ ***Wars, famines, earthquakes***, etc. will not cease **until** Jesus returns, puts an end to this world, raises the dead, separates God's people out and makes all things new.
 - Today's troubles confirm that God's pure word is absolutely true and reliable.

- God's pure word teaches us to know the true and Living God.
 - ◆ The word reveals the Most High Eternal God who created and sustains all things.
 - ◆ People who don't know God use their imaginations to make a substitute to worship.
 - ◆ Most, if not all people, know there is a Most High God, who seems unapproachable
 - ◆ Through God's word we join Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego: *our God does exist*
 - He made himself known as the **I AM**, Yahweh, the One and Only God.
- God reveals his character, will, plans, and promises in his pure word.
 - ◆ This is important to God. He moved those who penned his word to get it 100% right.
 - ◆ While he is All-Powerful, All-Knowing, and All-Present, eternal, independent of his Creation, Creator and Sustainer of all, hates rebellion against him, is absolutely just
 - He reveals he is also *the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin...* Exodus 34:6-7
 - Jesus demonstrated that when he died to redeem all a few days after our text.
 - This God is the only God who makes your problem his and fixes it - free of charge
 - ◆ This exclusive good news creates faith, restores our Father-children relationship under this covenant to be our God and we his people, forgiving our sins forever.
 - This is God's goal: secure us as his, promising no one can snatch us from him
 - We can be sure because God does it all. Atonement, Conversion, Preservation
- **Only this good news** can equip us to be untroubled in troubling times.
 - ◆ His word prepares me to expect all this bad stuff. The news affirms the word.
 - ◆ The real news doesn't change: my Savior God is in charge.
 - He will not let anything separate me from him.
 - He uses troubles, disasters, and persecution to bring some of his children home
 - He uses trials to strengthen the faith of those to rely on him - like the 3 men.
 - He corrects, rescues, and matures the faith of his own through affliction.
 - *Before I was afflicted I strayed, but now I keep your saying. You are good, and you do good. Teach me your statutes. ... It was good for me that I was afflicted, so that I might learn your statutes.* Psalm 119:67-71 Learn to delight in this!
 - The more these truths sink deep into our heart, bones, every fiber and thought the more we will be equipped to be untroubled in troubled times - living in peace and joy that rise above circumstance. Letting God's greater truth and reality prevail.
 - How transformative to us and our lives!
 - ◆ That's how God's word defeats our fears, worry, and frustration.
 - ◆ Celebrating God's anticipated victory before it takes place.
 - ◆ Let God's pure word continue to work this reformation among us.
 - What a witness to the lost! A witness to the living power of the Living God that works in those who trust in him and his pure word.

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