

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday January 10, 2010

"But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

Mark 13:23

This morning, we come to a place in Jesus' teaching, that tends to capture the attention of lot of people. That's true mainly because Jesus, in Mark 13, is warning his disciples about events that had not yet occurred – at least not when Jesus spoke these words. Something big was coming! Something he wanted them to know about! And so, one of the questions, we have to consider as we look at this passage is this: *"Was Jesus warning His disciples about something that would happen immediately, in their lifetimes for which they must prepare? Or was he warning them about some distant event that wouldn't take place for many centuries – something that is still future, even for us?"*

Now, to be honest, I have to admit that this is something about which many honest Christians will disagree. I certainly have my views, as you will discover this morning. But I am aware that not everyone will agree with my conclusions. That's fine. I'm willing to let those chips fall where they may. But there is another question we must deal with in this passage, that I believe is even more important than the first. For once we've understood Jesus' message here, what are we supposed to do with it? Is Jesus just giving us information about future events? Or is he telling us something about Himself that we need to understand and which will help us to carry on by faith in Him?

Now, I suspect that, just by asking that question, I've tipped you off as to where I'm headed. But I believe that more than anything else, a passage like this exists to reveal to us important things about Christ and His great concern for His elect. For no matter whether these events Jesus portrays have already happened in the past, or are yet to come, one thing is clear. Jesus cares enough about His Elect Church to prepare us in advance for what is coming.

May He give us have ears to hear and obey Him this morning!

Pastor Scott