

How often I tell myself this truth. Amid the news of war and rising gas prices, there is still a lot of other bad stuff going on in the world that never seems to go away. As long as we humans exist, this will be true. We are a sinful lot. We hear about shootings and riots, protests, muggings, murders, rapes, fires, earthquakes, pandemics, and suicides. Kind of a negative way to start my blog, isn't it? But my intent is to get your attention, so if you're still with me, I've succeeded.

The upside to all of this, is that it's only temporary. Believe it or not, most of these terrible things have been happening for thousands of years. The difference between then and now is that we hear about it instantly, and often watch it unfold with our own eyes. I am in awe of the patience of God. He has watched us 'misbehave' for so long, and yet he remains merciful and is longsuffering as only a loving Father can be. But I believe our time is growing shorter and shorter. Some verses from Mark, Chapter 13 spell it out rather clearly.

### **Mark 13:3-8**

***Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"***

***And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows (or birth pains). NKJV***

I believe we are witnessing the birth pains today and have been for some time. God has been watching countries fight against one another, often claiming their grievances in His name! He watches and waits as world leaders, heads of state, business owners, co-workers, neighbors, and families tear each other apart. He watches as we harm one another with our words, with our hands, or with weapons. To our own detriment, we have taken God out of our courtrooms, schools, and even our churches. He is most definitely hard to find in many homes.

### **Mark 13:12-13**

***Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. NKJV***

Guys, this is happening right now. If we open our ears to the conversations around us, we all can sense a change is on the horizon. If it weren't for my faith, I would be afraid. I can see and hear those around me, and I can sense their fear. Just this week, my co-worker was talking to me about these things, and all I could tell her was that I know it will be okay, because it's only temporary. Whether Jesus busts the sky wide open to come for his bride (the church), or if God calls me home, I will be just fine. As I have quoted often, but think it is fitting again; "We are not human beings having spiritual experiences. We are spiritual beings having human experiences." It is only temporary.

But I must ask those I meet, "Are you ready for when God has decided enough is enough?" As we spin our wheels trying to be successful by the world's standards, are we not losing sight of what is truly important? Are we finding our happiness from the things we are accumulating that are without a doubt, only temporary? What is your legacy to your children? To your family? Is it money? A successful business? Temporary. As King Solomon would say, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

The one thing that is not temporary, is where you will spend eternity. Wow, I just felt thousands of eyes rolling on that one. I know, this is a typical evangelical question. But it is the most important question of your life. I have what I refer to as a broken family, because some of those dearest to me have no clue about where they will spend eternity, or if 'it' is even real. I have become the odd one out because of my faith. But I'm okay with that because this world is not my home. I pray my family will realize this very soon. As hard as it may be to understand, when all is said and done, no matter what, I choose Jesus.

Some final words from Brother Mark:

**Mark 13:31-37**

***Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.***

***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he finds you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”***

