

Title: BY YOUR ENDURANCE, LUKE 21:5-19  
(Chatham, NJ; 11/14/10, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: Endurance demands that we avoid the deceptions of false signs as well as the traps of sin.

Purpose: To encourage us to endure.

Introduction:

1. Jesus' meaning in the Olivet discourse can be mysterious.
2. However, what he wants Christians to do is not so mysterious.
3. We are called upon to endure.
4. Let's take a look.

#### I. The Signs – Contemporaneous with Jesus. (The mysterious part)

##### A. Destruction of Jerusalem

1. The question Jesus answers is about the Temple (6).
2. His warnings had direct implications for his listeners; the words can't all refer to future events.
3. We know the Temple was destroyed in about 70 AD.

##### B. The Kingdom is Near

1. These are signs that the Kingdom is near, 30.
2. Some think this is the Kingdom as we will know it in heaven.
3. However, that strains the meaning of "this generation."
4. He is talking about his own day.
5. All of this must take place during his time.

##### C. The question of the second coming (25-28)

1. These verses seem to be about the cosmic upheaval when Christ comes back.
2. However, Joel 2:30-32 uses the same language about the first coming.
3. Jesus may simply be alluding to such: the universe is turning upside down.

#### II. Don't Be Deceived, Not Led Astray (8) (Not so mysterious)

##### A. The end will not be at once (9).

1. False messiahs will come (8).
2. Nations will be in turmoil (10).
3. Nature itself will be in turmoil (11).
4. For those who insist this is the present day I don't know how they determine that these times are any more in turmoil than Jesus' day.

##### B. Don't be weighed down (34)

1. Dissipation – to indulge in extravagant pursuit of pleasure.
2. Drunkenness – perhaps this best symbolizes a lifestyle of partying and lack of self-discipline.
3. Cares of life – this also tripped up the third soil in the Parable of the Sower.
4. Unaware of the trap (34) – like a thief in the night.
5. The warnings are still relevant.

#### III. Endure and Conquer.

##### A. By your endurance (vs. 19).

1. He has already told them that the end will not be at once (9).
2. He has also described that they must suffer persecution and testify.

3. He is specific enough that we believe he is talking about particulars for their day, but the notion of persecution and suffering is inherent in Christian living for all ages (2 Timothy 3:12).
- B. The churches in Revelation are all told they must conquer.
1. To the one who conquers (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21)
  2. Endurance and overcoming are an essential aspect of Christian faithfulness.

Conclusion:

1. There is more advice in 2 Thessalonians for those waiting for the Second Coming.
2. Don't be lazy (10-12), be busy.
3. No need to sit around waiting for it to happen.
4. Don't get tired of doing good things (13).
5. It takes self-control to keep doing good.
6. Peter sounds a similar warning in 2 Peter 3:8-15.
7. Be patient, continue to work, be holy!
8. These are good for today's Christian as much as they were for them.