



## Mark 13:37: Selah...Stay Awake Pt 2: Standing on the Word of God!

March 3, 2013

Today...I just could not move on to Mark 14 no matter how hard I tried! Thus the "Selah" or pause... I'd like to back up to some verses from last week, and use them for a foundation to encourage, explain, and exhort as God gives us grace this morning....

***Mar 13:35-37 ESV 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."***

### **One more time...the Church is Asleep at the Switch:**

1. Family and fathers....as bad as it's ever been in the Nation's history.
2. Worldview and youth losses...70-88% and rising.
3. Celebration of sin and perversion...it's mainstream!
4. Churches that REFUSE to preach the whole council of God! Actually using the limiting of God's Word as a strategy to attract people!
5. A total mockery and rejection of the Laws of God in culture.
6. Christians actually lining up on the devils side, then shoutin' amen.

### **Standing on the Word of God**

- Friday, Dave Ramsey tweeted this: "When you take a stand and live on principle, be prepared to be misunderstood." My reply: "And the church says AMEN!"
- Friends, LET US STAND ON THE WORD OF GOD!
- AND...I pray you get to the place where if the whole world is against you and against our King, YOU WILL STAND.
- Still is the essence of "staying awake." This is what it means to "occupy until He comes." To be awake is to understand spiritual truths juxtaposed against cultural truths, and to actually be obedient to Scripture!
- Oh dear church, as much as I DON'T WANT to be misunderstood, I know I will be. If you STAND, so will you.
  1. Will you stand? Will you stand when the culture laughs, mocks, sues, and calls you a hater?
  2. Will you stand when friends, family, and even church members say "It doesn't take all that?"
  3. Will you stand when the commandments of the Lord are called outdated, old-fashioned, hateful, and bigoted?
  4. Will you stand when you are overwhelmed by the level of cultural deception?
  5. Will you stand with both feet on the Word when you suffer loss because of the Word of God?
    - *Rev 20:4 ESV Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*
  6. Will you stand when your favorite singer or sports star or politician or talk show host blatantly goes against the Word of God?

- Psa 33:10-12 ESV The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. (11) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. (12) **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD**, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
7. I'm not trying to scare you, but the Scriptures are true:
- 2Ti 3:12 ESV Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
  - Mat 5:10-12 ESV "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
  - 2Ti 4:3-5 ESV For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (5) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- **But nevertheless, may I exhort you some? STAND!!!!!! ☺**
    1. Isa 40:8 ESV The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
    2. 2Th 2:15 ESV So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.
    3. Eph 6:10-17 ESV Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**. (14) **Stand therefore**, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (16) In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (17) **and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...**
    4. Heb 4:12-13 ESV **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
    5. Rom 15:4 ESV For whatever was written in former days was **written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

### **The Beauty of the Word of God**

- Psa 119:101-105 ESV I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. (102) I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. (103) **How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!** (104) Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. (105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Job 23:12 ESV I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; **I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.**

- Pro 6:20-23 ESV My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. (21) Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. (22) When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. (23) **For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.**
- Psa 119:9 ESV How can a young man keep his way pure? **By guarding it according to your word.**
- Psa 119:11 ESV **I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**
- Psa 1:1-6 ESV Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (2) **but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** (3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. (5) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; (6) for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
- Col 3:16-17 ESV **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,** teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

#### **Be Awakened according to the Word of God (help us Holy Spirit!)**

- Psa 119:17-24 ESV - Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. (18) Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. (19) I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! (20) My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. (21) You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. (22) Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies. (23) Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. (24) Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.
  1. So much here! Pray for God's mercy to keep His Word!
  2. Open our eyes oh Lord to the wonder of your Law! It isn't drudgery! You didn't put it here to ruin our fun. Wake us up!
  3. We are just sojourners (1 Pet 2:11). Let us not live our short lives like His commandments are hidden! They are plain to see! ☺
  4. Oh church, let us long for His rules, not the world's rationalizations.
  5. Thank you Lord for your discipline. Help us meditate on your statutes! Let us "be counseled by your Word!"

#### **In Closing....**

Precious friends, be exhorted today to read and obey the Scriptures. Be encouraged today to build a way of living not from culture, but from Christ. Be lifted up today to "think biblically" about what you see going on around us. Understand that we have a KING, and as citizens of the KINGdom, we must follow His precepts and commands. As Peter wrote....

*2Pe 1:19-21 ESV - And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to **pay attention** as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (20) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own*

*interpretation. (21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Beloved, let us WAKE UP, STAY AWAKE, and “pay attention.” And before we can be accused of Phariseeism because we love the Word, to love the Word rightly is to love Christ!

*Joh 1:1-5 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.** (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*Joh 1:14 ESV And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Rev 19:13-16 ESV He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is **The Word of God.** (14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. (15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, **King of kings and Lord of lords.**

Amen Lord Jesus.