

THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Gospel of Mark A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION THIRTEEN

Mark 13:1-13:37

Questions for Session Thirteen

1. The disciples' observance of the massive stones and magnificent buildings led to Jesus' prophecy of the destruction of the temple, which would occur by C.E. 70. Why do you suppose Jesus addressed these comments so specifically?
2. As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives with his *insiders*, what did they request of him? How did Jesus respond to their request? What other details would you like to know on this subject?
3. What did Jesus teach the disciples about deception? How would they know if they were being deceived? How can we be deceived today?

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4. Regarding the end times or the *eschaton*, how did Jesus tell the disciples they would recognize it was upon them? Are we any closer here in the twenty-first century?
5. What were the disciples to accomplish prior to their demise? How would they recognize (v. 11) the presence of the Holy Spirit with them? What reward does Jesus promise the ones, who stand firm to the end?
6. What is the *abomination that causes desolation*, and where does it belong? Why does Jesus seem to talk with them about the end times with a sense of urgency? Is the era of the end times upon us now, or is it still far off into the future?
7. Who are *the elect*? Is it possible for them to be deceived by false prophets? Are you on your guard? Do you think it would be possible for you to be deceived? How are we deceived every day of our lives? Give examples.
8. How will the Son of Man come, and how will he gather his elect? What has the fig tree got to do with this? Do we have a better idea of when all this will happen, now that we have read this passage of Scripture?

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9. What does Jesus say about the *Word of God*? How does the *Word of God* endure today?

10. Who is in charge? What are we to do until the Son of Man comes again? Jesus insists that his followers focus their attention on what, regarding his teachings of the end times?

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Dr. Bob Kirby | 302.588.7878 | drbobkirby@gmail.com
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