

No one, not even the unredeemed, are ultimately outside the will of God (Pr. 16:4; Rom. 9:14-18; 1 Pet. 2:7-8). They are not forced to be lost, but choosing to reject God's offer of mercy does not somehow free them from the control of God. Even their rejection has been included in the eternal plan of God. This is perhaps the worst part of it for them. In their attempt to be free from God by rejecting Him, even if at the cost of their own souls, they find that there is no such thing. The net of God's providence includes even the vain attempt to be outside the net.

Walter Elwell

Providence, then, is the sovereign, divine superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with their created nature, all to the glory and praise of God. This divine, sovereign, benevolent control of all things by God is the underlying premise of everything that is taught in the Scriptures.

Walter Elwell

How can all things be worked together by God for good? The answer is at hand. It is because God's ultimate purpose is to make us like Christ. His goal is the complete restoration of the image of God in His child! So great a work demands all the resources which God finds throughout the universe, and He ransacks the possibilities of joys and sorrows in order to reproduce in us the character of Jesus.

Sinclair Ferguson

Throughout eternity the lost soul will be testifying to this truth: "God is holy; I was a sinner; I rejected His salvation, I turned my back upon His gospel, I despised His Son, I hated God Himself, I lived in my sins, I loved my sins, I died in my sins, and now I am lost to all eternity! And God is righteous in my condemnation!"

Octavius Winslow

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C.S. Lewis

Christianity can be condensed into four words: Admit, Submit, Commit and Transmit.

Samuel Wilberforce

The Consequences of False Spirituality

Luke 21:5-24

Introduction: In the longer context (21:5-38) Jesus uses the destruction of Jerusalem (near future) as a preview of what to expect when He returns (far future). He shocks his disciples with a prophetic announcement that one day the Temple will be destroyed, demonstrating the perils of that hypocritical spirituality for which the Temple had become symbol. But this is only the prelude to what the final judgment will mean for all who refuse to follow the widow's model of humble dependence upon God.

The Destruction of the Temple:

Luke 21:5,6

What God intended the Temple to be

What the religious leaders had made the Temple to be

The Questions of the Disciples

Luke 21:7

When will this awful thing happen?

What awful things will foreshadow this awful thing?

The Instructions of the Lord

Luke 21:8-24

Don't panic over false claims, chaos, or disasters

Do prepare for persecution and testimony

Do recognize the justice of God's judgment

Applying these truths to life ...

What is the purpose of this passage for us today?

- Comfort: *history is solidly in God's hands*
- Conviction: *sin and rebellion will be justly judged*
- Consolation: *death does not annul eternal life*
- Commitment: *the mission of Christ is always primary*

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Kids Notes

The Consequences of False Spirituality

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Jesus predicted that one day Jerusalem would:*

- A. become the capital of the world.
- B. be surrounded and destroyed.
- C. shrink to the size of a small village.
- D. all of the above.

2. *Jesus told his disciples to be ready:*

- A. to remain faithful during times of persecution.
- B. to testify to the greatness of God even under trial.
- C. to ignore false claims by false "christs."
- D. none of the above.

3. *The destruction of Jerusalem that Jesus predicted:*

- A. never happened.
- B. happened in 1948.
- C. happened under the Romans in 70 ad.
- D. all of the above.

For Family Discussion: How does it comfort your heart to know that God is fully in charge of all history, and knows the future perfectly?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

DESTRUCTION _____	TOTAL: _____
TEMPLE _____	_____
JERUSALEM _____	_____
ROME _____	_____
JESUS _____	_____
JUDGMENT _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

DESTRUCTION DESOLATION TEMPLE TITUS ROME JESUS
 JERUSALEM JUDGMENT SURROUNDED CHRIST VENGEANCE HAIR
 PERISH ETERNAL TESTIMONY PRISON SYNAGOGUE KINGS PERISH
 GENTILES TIMES WRATH MOTHER FOOT REDEMPTION SIN FAITH

O E T M D S J N S E I W G E E F W
 S H N E E E U X O Y L E R C Q A V
 R P J L S P F T U I N P N A L I T
 N R I A T M A I I T T A M S T T S
 I I P S R I V X I T E P G E R H I
 S S Y U U C E L B G D N M O T F R
 M O V R C Z E A N E I P M E G F H
 J N Z E T S T E S K I E J L D U C
 U R S J I Z V O L A N R E T E E E
 D J U X O I L T E S T I M O N Y R
 G B S N N A P E R I S H T I M E S
 M R E H T O M S D E O N J O T G J
 E E J I H Y X D R I A H F Y O Q S
 N D O J Z D E D N U O R R U S F H
 T N B A W E Y W E F P I A C Q F R