

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

**2015 VISION: Redeem the Time!**

Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 2

### Scriptures for Today: Mark 1:1-8

Title of Today's Message: ***The beginning of THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God!***

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began our study with an overview of the book of Mark. We saw how Mark's gospel portrays the Lord Jesus Christ as the **SERVANT** of God. We were also introduced to the man – John Mark – who is the author of the gospel that bears his name. He was a young man who had quit the Lord's work and was considered by Paul to be unprofitable. However, **Mark did not let his past define his future**. He became a profitable servant of the Lord Jesus Christ! He was perfectly suited to write the book of Mark because of what he had gone through. Today, we will look at **the beginning** of **THE** gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (a.k.a. God the **SON**). And, we will hear from the eye witness who was born to be **the messenger of the Almighty God** and to **prepare the way for His Christ**. Consider this passage...

*"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*

– Paul (Galatians 1:6-8); writing to churches planted on his 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey about false teachers trying to devour God's flock)

### PREACHING NOTES

#### 1. The **beginning** of **THE gospel of Jesus Christ**, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

- ✓ There is **only ONE true gospel of salvation** from God's eternal justice and judgment to come... Romans 1, 2:1-16; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, 13-15; Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 3

**Romans 2:16** – In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ **according to my gospel**.

**SALVA'TION**, n. [L. salvo, to save.]

1. The act of saving; preservation from destruction, danger or great calamity.

**NOTE:** This definition of "salvation" was taken from Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary. Do you find it interesting that by its very definition, "salvation" is a way of escape from God's eternal punishment? See 1 Thess 1:9, 10. That is why it is called the "GOOD NEWS" (GOSPEL) of Jesus Christ who died that "the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)

- ✓ Jesus Christ – **the Saviour of the world** – is **the focal point** of the gospel... Acts 2:22-24, 30-36; 3:13-26; 4:10-13, 33; 5:28-32; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ... Matthew to the Revelation!!  
**John 10:7, 9** – The said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep. **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.  
**John 10:11** – **I am the good shepherd**: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.  
**John 14:6** – Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh** unto the Father, **but by me**.
- ✓ Jesus Christ – **God the Son** – was **100% God** and **100% man** without sin... Isaiah 9:6, 7; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 35-36; 6:66-69; 9:35-38; 1 John 5:1-12; Mark 1:24; 1 Tim 3:16  
**John 9:35-38** – Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.**  
**1 Timothy 3:16** – And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**NOTE** In Mark's introduction to the gospel, we see him magnify – with just a few words and a stroke of his pen – **Jesus Christ as the glorious Son of God and the focal point of the gospel!** He immediately and without any delay gets to the most important message that ever came to planet earth – there is **GOOD NEWS** and it involves the man Jesus Christ who was most assuredly God in human flesh!! That being said, it begs a very important question from the start – if Jesus Christ is the good news, **what then is the bad news?** If God had to become a man to bring salvation to the world, then there must be a great and fearful condemnation that cannot be remedied by human wisdom or works. The Bible speaks of such condemnation as carrying **eternal punishment** as a consequence **in a literal place called hell** in a very clear manner using plain speech in our own language. As we continue our study of Mark, do not miss this important truth – **you must act on it!**

❖ **Personal Application**

- Has the gospel of Jesus Christ become your gospel? Are you SAVED from the wrath to come?

2. John the Baptist **fulfilled** God's **WRITTEN prophecies** in preparing the way for **Christ!** 1:2-8

- ✓ The OT prophesied of him, and Jesus said there was **not a greater prophet** than him...

Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 7:27, 28; 2 Kings 1:8

**Luke 7:28** – For I say unto you, **Among those that are born of women** there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

- ✓ John was a humble servant and **believed that he was NOT worthy** compared to Christ...

Psalm 51:17; James 4:6; Matthew 8:8; Revelation 5:12

**Revelation 5:12** – Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

- ✓ John preached the Law, **repentance** and baptism **to prepare Israel to believe on Christ...**

Matthew 14:4; Mark 6:18; Acts 13:24, 25; 19:3, 4

**Mark 6:18-20** – For John had said unto Herod, **It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.** (*Ex 20:14; Mt 5:27, 28; Commandment #7 = Thou shalt not commit adultery; Jesus said look with lust*) Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

- ✓ John said that although he baptized with water, **Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost...**

Acts 1:5; 10:5; 11:15, 16; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5-6

**Acts 1:5** – For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

**Titus 3:4-7** – But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**NOTE** According to Paul's preaching in Acts 13:25, John the Baptist "**fulfilled his course**" which was the **WILL** of God for his life. In John 3:30, John said, "**He must increase, but I must decrease.**" We should learn from the humility and faithfulness of John the Baptist. We should learn from the content of his preaching. **He was not ashamed of His Lord, and he was not afraid to speak the truth.** He was by worldly measures a fool, but that did not deter him from his purpose and his life's calling – **to preach the coming of His Lord** – the Lamb of God!

❖ **Personal Application**

- Have you been a humble, faithful MESSENGER for God? Go be a fool for Christ this week!

### **A TIME OF DECISION**

There are no coincidences with God. You were here today to hear a message **from God...**

- ❖ **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now.**

\* The Bible says you must **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead.** You must turn to God and trust Christ alone to save you from God's wrath to come.