

Mark Introduction

Hebrews 12:1-3

- 1 ¶ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2 **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3 **Consider him** who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Need for an accurate eye-witness account:

Hebrews 1:1-3 *spoken thru Son – need accurate history of Him*

- 1 ¶ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
- 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

Acts 10:39-43 *Apostles called to be witnesses of Him*

- 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
- 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,
- 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
- 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
- 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Ephesians 2:20 *Apostles were foundational- and they were dying*

- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

II Peter 1:12-19 *Peter desired to leave written record*

- 12 ¶ Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.
- 13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,
- 14 since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.
- 15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.
- 16 ¶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
- 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”
- 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.
- 19 ¶ 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,

Background of Mark’s Gospel – The Memoirs of Peter

Unique place of Mark’s Gospel

Matthew starts with the genealogy of a King, the Messiah of the Jews

Luke traces the Son of Man back to Adam, the second Adam, the perfect man

John starts with the fact of His pre-existence with the Father, co-eternal and co-equal with God

Mark has no genealogy, as the lineage of a slave is not important, only his obedience and his ability to perform.

Mr 10:45 *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Isaiah 52:13-53:7 *the suffering servant of Yahweh*

- 13 ¶ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.
- 14 As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
- 15 so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.
- 1 ¶ Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3 He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 ¶ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

What is 'the Gospel'?

“That "Gospel of peace," which Cornelius heard from St. Peter (and hearing, received the Holy Ghost) was the same story of Jesus "after the baptism which John preached." And this is throughout the substance of the primitive teaching. The Apostles act as men who believe that everything necessary to salvation is (implicit or explicit) in the history of those few crowded years. Therefore this is "the gospel."

Men there are who judge otherwise, and whose gospel is not the story of salvation wrought, but the plan of salvation applied, how the Atonement avails for us, how men are converted, and what privileges they then receive. But in truth men are not converted by preaching conversion, any more than citizens are made loyal by demanding loyalty. Show men their prince, and convince them that he is gracious and truly royal, and they will die for him. Show them the Prince of Life, and He, being lifted up, will draw all men unto Him; and thus the truest gospel is that which declares Christ and Him crucified. As all science springs from the

phenomena of the external world, so do theology and religion spring from the life of Him who was too adorable to be mortal, and too loving to be disobeyed.

Therefore St. Paul declares that the gospel which he preached to the Corinthians and by which they were saved, was, that Christ died for our sins and was buried and rose again, and was seen of sufficient witnesses. (#1Co 15:1-8)

And therefore St. Mark is contented with a very brief record of those wondrous years; a few facts, chosen with a keen sense of the intense energy and burning force which they reveal, are what he is inspired to call the gospel. “

-Expositor’s Bible Commentary (online bible – strong meat for hungry souls)

**Peter’s preaching of the Gospel to Cornelius:
Acts 10:36-40**

- 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching *good news* of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
- 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, *beginning from Galilee* after the baptism that John proclaimed:
- 38 how *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit* and with power. He went about *doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil*, for God was with him.
- 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews *and in Jerusalem*. They *put him to death* by hanging him on a tree,
- 40 but *God raised him* on the third day and made him to appear,
- 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
- 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
- 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
- 44 ¶ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.
- 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

- Mark 1:1 the beginning of the gospel
- Mark 1:16-8:26 the Galilean ministry
- Mark 1:10 the coming of the Spirit on Jesus
- Jesus ministry focused on doing good and exorcisms
- Mark 11-14 the ministry in Jerusalem
- Mark 15 the death of Christ
- Mark 16:6 ‘He is risen, he is not here!’