

The Beginning of the Gospel
Mark 1:1

I. The Gospel is THE Good News

A. Mark makes a unique point

1. Mark calls this collection of stories about Jesus, the gospel
2. He uses a familiar word in an unfamiliar manner
 - a. Gospel in normal usage
 - (1) A reward offered to the messenger who brought favorable tidings
 - (2) The content of a message that seemed favorable to the interests of the recipients
 - (3) Usually occurs in plural form
 - b. Mark uses it in singular form to emphasize
 - (1) Not that this is “good news”
 - (2) But that this is THE good news
 - (a) News unlike any other
 - (b) With greater significance for the recipient than any other news

B. What makes The Good News Good?

1. Mark focuses more on the work of Jesus than the biography or teaching of Jesus
2. So what makes the accounts of an itinerant preacher in backwater Israel 2000 years ago, good news?
3. What makes The Good News good?

II. What makes the Good News Good?

A. The gospel is The Good News for what it reveals about God and His purpose for the world

1. **Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV)** *“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*
 - a. God is the source and content of The Good News.
 - b. The Good News accomplishes His perfect will in the world
 - (1) **Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)** *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*
 - (2) Like any revelation from the mind and heart of God, The Good News is empowered by God to successfully accomplish God’s purpose without fail or fault
2. **Romans 1:16 (ESV)** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

- a. The Good News is the God-empowered means to bring sinful humans back into fellowship and right standing with the Creator against Whom we have sinned and under Whom our sin condemns us.
- b. **The Good News is the soul-saving, life-changing, purpose-fulfilling message of God's work to rescue people like you and me from the eternal consequences of our nature and our choices.**

B. The Good News in the Doctrines of Grace

1. Radical corruption

- a. Sin -
 - (1) Sin is therefore fundamentally opposition to God, rebellion against God, which roots in hatred of God.
 - (2) The natural tendency to refuse God and the unrelenting choices to put self first in all things.
 - (3) **Romans 3:23 (ESV) *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***
- b. Because everyone sins as a matter of nature and of action, every single human being who has ever lived, lives, or will ever live in this world stand guilty before God and subject to judgment
 - (1) No one is as sinful as they could be
 - (2) Everyone is equally unable to adequately reverse their sin and save themselves from the justice of God
- c. We are, every one of us, caught in a most desperate need of Good News!

2. God's Sovereign Grace in The Good News

- a. Sovereign Grace
 - (1) Sovereign election
 - (a) **Ephesians 1:3-6 (ESV) *³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.***
 - (b) God chose from before the world was created that among the whole family of man there would be those who would be rescued from the ravages of sin through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Definite atonement
 - (a) **John 3:16 (ESV) *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***
 - (b) **Romans 5:8 (ESV) *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

- (c) **Jesus Christ, God's Son, in love for and obedience to the Father and the Father's plan to redeem God's elect from sin, willingly took on human form and died on the cross, taking upon Himself the justice our sin deserves, doing so in our place on our behalf in fulfilment of God's eternal plan to manifest His glory in all creation.**
- (3) **Effectual calling**
 - (a) Those whom God chooses and for whom Christ died, God calls without fail to redeeming faith
 - (b) **Romans 8:30 (ESV) *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.***
 - (c) God acts within us on His own behalf to accomplish His will, and no plan of His can be thwarted
- b. **Preserving grace**
 - (1) God acts in the heart and soul of the believer to maintain saving faith through sanctification
 - (2) **Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV) *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.***

III. Faith Completes The Good News

A. The gospel is The Good News because it recounts with saving power God's actions to save people from their sins

- 1. But the gospel is also The Good News because it calls for a response from us.
- 2. **Acts 2:38-39 (ESV) ³⁸ *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."***

B. Mark and the Good News

- 1. The work of Jesus demonstrates God's actions in Christ to convince the world of sin and the need for a Savior
- 2. The work of Jesus reveals the work of God to save people from sin through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection
- 3. **The work of Jesus calls men and women, boys and girls to respond to the grace offered them by God through Christ**