

I. The Gospel in Five Words

A. No sneaking necessary

1. Linda's scare quotient
2. No need to sneak up on subject today
3. We are preparing to explore in depth the gospel according to Mark

B. The Five Words: Jesus Christ, Son of God

1. The gospel is THE Gospel -
 - a. Not just any good news
 - b. the singular account of God's sovereign activity to restore sinners to a right relationship with Himself
2. The Gospel in Five Words: Jesus Christ, Son of God
3. Potential Outline of the Gospel in the Five Words
 - a. Jesus - a man with a divine purpose
 - b. Christ - a man with a divine mission
 - c. Son of God - a man with a divine identity

C. The First Two Words: Jesus Christ

1. The First Word of the Gospel: Jesus (fr. Heb. *Yeshua*)
 - a. Meaning
 - (1) "The Lord Saves"
 - (2) More than merely a name, Mark points us to the premier fact of the gospel
 - (3) God Himself hears and responds to our desperate cry for rescue from the eternal peril presented by sin
 - b. The first word, *Jesus*, introduces the fact of radical human corruption and the glory of sovereign grace!
 - (1) Sin and sinfulness present the peril of God's righteous judgment upon sinners
 - (2) God, by His own choice, according to His own heart, on His own terms, rescues human beings from the peril of divine wrath upon sin
 - (3) God rescues us through Jesus, who gives himself as a substitute for us, taking upon himself our sin and God's justice on the cross.
 - (a) **2 Cor 5:21 (ESV) *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***
 - (b) **1 Pe 2:24 (ESV) *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.***
 - c. With this first word, Jesus, Mark reminds his readers [Christians in Rome facing mounting persecution] of what they have already heard and accepted by faith, and what he will spend the next sixteen chapters reaffirming for them as they face opposition in the world.
2. The Second Word of the Gospel: Christ
 - a. The first word is enough to convey the heart of the gospel, but . . .
 - (1) Principle of Multiple Witnesses

- (2) **De 19:15 (ESV)** *“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.*
- b. The second word of the gospel, this word *Christ*, is an additional witness from the Holy Spirit to the value, relevance, and truth of THE Gospel, especially as Mark relates it.

II. The Second Word of The Gospel: Christ

A. Not Jesus' last name!

1. Not merely an identifier
2. NO: Out of all the Jesus' in the world, we want Jesus whose last name is Christ.
3. NO: Last name: Jesus ben Joseph of Nazareth

B. Christ

1. Title more than a name
2. “Christ”
 - a. Just as *Jesus* translates the Heb *Yeshua*, Grk: *christos*
 - (1) directly translates the Hebrew word *masiah*
 - (2) **John 4:25 (ESV)** *The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”*
 - b. Hebrew: *mashakh* =
 - (1) Secular
 - (a) to anoint, to rub or anoint, as with oil
 - (b) Comes to mean one who is anointed or set apart by anointing
 - (2) Fourfold Theological Significance When Used in Religious Rather than Ordinary Context
 - (a) Indicated an authorized separation for God service, accompanied by both honor and responsibility
 - (b) Anointing is effected by God;
 - i) God is the authorizing agent
 - ii) Not
 - a) Necessity - not because of vacancy
 - b) Humanity - not because of demand
 - c) Ability - not because of superpowers
 - iii) This anointing is the sovereign work of God's will
 - (c) Divine enablement accompanies divine anointing
 - i) **Acts 10:38 (ESV)** *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.*
 - ii) Peter preaching to the Gentiles at Cornelius's house
 - iii) Peter directly connects Jesus with the empowering selection of God for a specific purpose.
 - (d) The form *masiah* (in the OT) was associated with the coming promised deliverer (Yeshua), whom we know to be Jesus.
 - i) **Isaiah 11:1-5 (ESV)** ¹ *There shall come forth a*

shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

- ii) **Isaiah 61:1 (ESV) *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;***
- iii) **Luke 4:21 (ESV) *And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”***

(3) A step further: A Pagan *Masiah* In Isaiah 45:1

- (a) Cyrus,
 - i) worshiper of Marduk and other gods, called *masiah*
 - ii) Persian conqueror of Babylon
 - iii) Used intentionally by God to restore Jews to Jerusalem
- (b) Functional rather than theological designation
- (c) *Masiah* is one singled out by God or “chosen” for a specific task, usually one of deliverance
 - i) In the case of Cyrus, he was specifically chosen by God to actuate a deliverance of Israel from Babylonian captivity and a restoration of Israel to the land of promise
 - ii) **In the case of Jesus, God specifically chose him to actuate a deliverance of God’s chosen people from slavery to sin and a restoration of God’s people to a relationship of promise with Him.**
 - iii) This is the gospel, according to Mark

C. Conclusion

1. The first word of The Gospel that Mark presents in his introduction, “Jesus”, declares that God saves.
2. The second word of The Gospel that Mark presents in his introduction, “Christ,” declares a unique Savior specially selected and empowered by God for the task of delivering God’s people
3. The final three words of The Gospel that Mark presents in his introduction, “Son of God,” will reveal the identity of this God-selected, God-authorized, God-empowered Savior.

III. Today’s Take-aways

- A. **There are no frivolous words in the Bible; every word deserves careful attention.**
- B. **Many cultural and philosophical efforts assert the answer to the human dilemma, but there is, according to The gospel, only one God-appointed, God-anointed Savior**
 1. Christ alone is God’s response to sin
 2. Christ alone, through faith in him alone, is the singular means to a restored,

favorable, eternally joyous redeemed relationship with God

- a. These hold no promise for eternal redemption
 - (1) Education
 - (2) Science
 - (3) Politics
 - (4) Self-improvement
 - (5) Secular therapy
- b. **Ephesians 2:11-13 (ESV)** ¹¹ *Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—* ¹² *remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
- c. **Our one and only hope, revealed in The Gospel, is Jesus Christ, Son of God.**

C. Christ

1. The God-appointed Savior means we need not bear the burden of our sin and guilt
2. The God-appointed Example means we need not wonder what God is doing
 - a. **1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)** *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
 - b. **Romans 8:29 (ESV)** *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*
3. The God-appointed Standard means we need not question what quality our lives should reveal
 - a. **1 John 2:6 (ESV)** *whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*
 - b. Jesus sets the living standard for life for every true believer