

The Nine Proofs  
Mark 1

Read the full text of Mark 1:1-45.

**I. Mark's Point**

**A. What Mark could not tell his audience**

1. To the persecuted Christians in Rome giving their lives for the faith
2. What Mark cannot tell his audience
  - a. That the pagan social environment would get better
  - b. That any of them would avoid the increasing persecution
  - c. That their children, their wives and husbands, their brothers and sisters and parents and aunts and uncles, that anyone in their family would not suffer or even die for the faith they held
  - d. That people who despised their faith and despised them for their faith would suddenly have a mass change of heart
  - e. That the culture would miraculously undergo a spontaneous revival overnight
  - f. That their lives would be marked by ease and luxury and convenience and physical security
3. Mark could not fill their minds and hearts with false hope, empty platitudes, vain promises and phony prophecies.

**B. What Mark did tell his audience**

1. **Set before God's people the evidence, the proof, that Jesus of Nazareth who, they trusted with their lives is in fact the Christ, the Son of God.**
  - a. Their faith was valid.
  - b. Our faith is valid.
  - c. Your faith is valid.
2. Every evidence, every proof Mark offers, though it can easily stand scrutiny as theological concept on its own, has as the core of its function the purpose of unveiling Christ to the seeking heart.
  - a. Mark's point in offering each proof is to provide insight into the Person and purpose of Jesus.
  - b. We want to know about healing not to become healers or healed but to love Christ and trust Him as He deserves to be trusted,
  - c. We want to know about Jesus's teaching and preaching not merely to identify the content of His message but to know the mind and heart of the Divine Preacher, that we might know and love the One He proclaims as we were created and redeemed to love.
3. In the first chapter of Mark we are given nine proofs that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
  - a. Nine proofs that Jesus is God's specially anointed Savior
  - b. Nine proofs that Jesus is God come in human form to rescue God's chosen and dearly loved people from the deadly peril presented by

- sin.
- c. Nine proofs that will be reinforced and repeated in various forms throughout this gospel until he adds in the last chapter the tenth proof that validates all the others.
- d. Nine proofs, one point:
  - (1) Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. the Son of God.
  - (2) You can trust Him. You should trust Him.
  - (3) **You should stake your life on Him.**

## II. **Nine Proofs that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**

### A. **Preaching Plan**

1. Overview today
2. Take each one separately over the next ten weeks.

### B. **Nine proofs that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, our hope in a hellish world**

1. **1-3 Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophetic vision**
  - a. Isaiah/Malachi
    - (1) A preacher would come
    - (2) The Lord would come
  - b. Mark
    - (1) John came
    - (2) Jesus came
  - c. Throughout this gospel we will find Jesus fulfilling the prophesied role of Messiah
    - (1) He proves special anointing to do the work of God in the power and Spirit of God for the glory of God and the faith producing joy of God's people.
    - (2) Some people today hold up specific messianic prophecies not yet manifested and claim since these prophecies are not fulfilled that Jesus cannot be the Messiah
      - (a) The lion laying down the lamb
      - (b) What they fail to account for is that Jesus, the Christ, comes twice
        - i) Once to redeem the people of God through His death on the cross
        - ii) Once to rescue the people of God into His eternal kingdom through the power of the word of God
      - (c) Messiah has come, Messiah is coming, and the question is, are you ready?
2. **4-8 Jesus delivers the promised Spirit**
  - a. **Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.***
  - b. **John 15:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> *“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds***

*from the Father, he will bear witness about me.*

- c. **Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.* <sup>2</sup> *And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.* <sup>3</sup> *And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.* <sup>4</sup> *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
3. **9-11** Jesus receives the certification of two incontrovertible witnesses
  - a. The Spirit descends on Him
  - b. The Father announces Him
  - c. God honors His own principle and offers two clear witnesses to Jesus' identity as Christ and Son of God
4. **12-13** Jesus experiences every sphere of reality:
  - a. Natural
  - b. Supernatural
  - c. Preternatural
  - d. Divine
5. **14-15** Jesus proclaims the gospel of God: Any other message from one claiming to be the Christ was a lie, a curse
6. **16-20** Jesus demonstrates the unique work of God in salvation
  - a. Jesus chooses some from among many
  - b. Jesus effectively calls them to discipleship and new life through faith in Himself
  - c. Jesus sets before them a goal for their lives that only he can accomplish in them
7. **21-34** Jesus teaches with divine authority supported by divine power
8. **35-39** Jesus enjoys a personal, vital relationship with the Father as a priority above all else
9. **40-45** Jesus loves with the Father's love as you would expect of the Father's Son.
10. **16:6** "He is not here; he is risen."
  - a. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the final proof that validates all the others.
  - b. Were anything Jesus said or did a misrepresentation of Himself or the One who sent Him, it would be sin and worthy of death; there would have been no resurrection.
  - c. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the final proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

### **III. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

#### **A. The point of the Proofs**

1. These proofs are given not only to your mind, to convince, persuade and encourage you, but to your heart and spirit to work faith in you.
2. Mark's goal, the Spirit's goal, is whole-hearted devotion, life-surrendering commitment, persecution-enduring, holiness-living, heaven-gaining faith

## **B. Reflection Questions**

1. Are you concerned about the course of contemporary culture? Turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there.
2. Are you anxious about the future, both for yourself and for your children? turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there.
3. Are you guilty and ashamed/ and fearful of meeting God in the present condition of your heart? turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there.
4. Are you feeling weak, powerless, lost, struggling for answers, dismayed, despairing, defeated? turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there.
5. Is your heart heavy, your body hurting, your spirit hungry? turn your eyes upon Jesus and keep them there.
6. God's answer to your life, to your heart, to your situation, to your need, to your circumstance, to your hope and your cry is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
  - a. Trust Him. Accept Him. Learn from Him. Follow Him.
  - b. Jesus, and only Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
  - c. He is God's uniquely appointed and empowered Savior.
    - (1) Confess your sin and your need of Him
    - (2) Accept by faith God's forgiving, life changing grace
    - (3) Put away your old life and take up new life through God's Spirit
    - (4) In the power of God, receive the Spirit of God and live each moment of life as Jesus did, in fellowship with God for the glory of God.