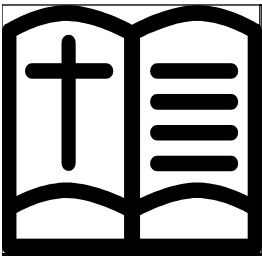


“GRASPING THE GOSPEL”

MARK 1:1-8; SUPPORT SCRIPTURE

- I. *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...”*
 - A. *Beginning - its revelation in time; the start or initiation; Jesus Himself claims to be the beginning...and the end!*
 - B. *Gospel - good news; good message; this is its revelation in time but it is an old, old message*
 - C. *Jesus Christ, Son of God - Jesus, the name of the unique human born to Mary of the lineage of David; Christ, the Greek word for the Hebrew, Hameshiach (Messiah) or anointed One; Son of God, term denoting divinity and royalty*
 - D. *The start of the good news belonging to and proclaimed by the God-man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah; not His birth but His revelation*
 - E. *Recorded for us by Mark, known also as John Mark, cousin to Barnabas, and stated by Peter to be his spiritual son*
 - 1. *Probably not an eyewitness of the Christ*
 - 2. *Reported to be the “memoirs of Peter”*
 - 3. *Not written in chronological order as the events happened but in the order in which Mark recalled them to witness to the things that proved Jesus was the Son of God*
 - 4. *Said to be written in Rome for Roman citizens who were primarily Gentile*



5. *Unlike Matthew and Luke, he offers no Jewish background or proof of Christ's origin, he assumes it is known. He is offering us the accounts of His miraculous divine and human life. It is action-packed.*
6. *He wants us to know the good news does not have a human source but is divine in its origin and delivered through God's own Son.*

II. WHY IS GOOD NEWS NEEDED? WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?

- A. *The Creator of the heavens and the earth created and established the kingdom of God with two “houses”, the kingdom of heaven, including the angels and all the other spiritual beings, and the kingdom of earth, made up of humans and all the created things of earth.*
- B. *Rebellion against His rule exists in both houses; chaos, sin and death exist on earth; turmoil and confusion has been created in heaven; God's longsuffering has allowed things to exist but He is bringing it to a redemptive close*
- C. *Jesus and His forerunner John have been sent to announce the “coming” or restoration of the Kingdom of God in both houses; to all who will receive this message and its Messenger by faith, salvation will come and they will be a newly created eternal people; to all who reject it, condemnation and eternal separation from God will follow*
- D. *Man's declaration of independence from God has killed Him! He is separated from God and will perish in it*